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MISSISSIPPI.

THE ORIGIN OF THE VICKSBURG CONFLICT.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPOSED SHERIFF CROSBY—WERE THE WHITE MEN JUSTIFIED IN RESISTING THE NEGROES?—OPINIONS OF DISINTERESTED GERMANS—THE KILLING OF SO MANY BLACK MEN CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY—PHASES OF THE FIGHT.

From Our Own Correspondent.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Monday, Dec. 14, 1874.

The political difficulties which culminated in the killing of so many of the black citizens of Warren County, in this State, have existed for many months, and although Crosby, the deposed Sheriff, is charged with being the direct cause of Monday's fight, it cannot be doubted that the white men of Vicksburg have for some time past been waiting for an opportunity to rid themselves of a government which has ever been obnoxious to them. Without, at this time, entering into a detailed discussion of the merits of the case, it can be stated that the property-owners had just cause for complaint against the county officials. The taxes have been collected in a criminally careless manner, and when collected they have, in more than one instance, been misappropriated. They have been ruinously high, too, amounting to not less than five per cent. on more than a full valuation. As a natural consequence real estate has been steadily declining in value, and I am informed by many reliable gentlemen that the income derived from this property has not always been sufficient to pay the demands of the tax-gatherers. For the large sums thus collected no return has been made; hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid into the County Treasury, and still the roads remain rough and broken, and the bridges are everywhere falling into decay. Several of the county officers are known to have committed grave offenses against the law, and most of them, even those holding important positions, are ignorant black men. All these things have naturally exasperated the property-owners and other white citizens, and they eagerly seized upon the statement that Crosby's bond was insufficient and not valid as an excuse for overturning the whole negro Government. This was done not by men of bad character and naturally lawless instincts, as has been stated by many partisan journals, but by the most reputable and influential citizens of Vicksburg. Lawyers, doctors, and even ministers engaged in the movement, and, in common with capitalists and working men, demanded the resignation of the Sheriff. "Why was it necessary for a party of 600 to make this demand?" I asked a well-known merchant of the place. The following was his very significant reply: "All the white people were determined that he should leave his office, and they were not willing that one or two men should take the responsibility of ousting him."

SHERIFF CROSBY'S STATEMENT.

In my last letter I devoted much space to a statement of the charges which have been brought against the Sheriff. This morning I visited the deposed official for the purpose of obtaining his version of the recent conflict and the causes which led to it. I found him in the County Jail, where he remains, fearing personal violence at the hands of some white desperado or the friends of a number of slaughtered black men, who hold him responsible for all that has occurred. He is a tall, well-built mulatto, about thirty-five years of age, and is evidently a man of some education. He speaks with hesitation in regard to the recent disturbances, and makes widely conflicting statements. He says that no one ever doubted the legality of his election, and that no charge of official corruption can be proved against him. Some fault was found with his original bond, and about six weeks ago he made a new one, which was legally accepted by the Board of Supervisors. Shortly after it was reported that one of his bondsmen, a gentleman named Yerger, had become insolvent. Under the law of the State this would make it necessary for him to prepare an entirely new bond. Before this could be done, however, it was necessary for an insolvent bondsman, or one wishing to withdraw from a bond, to officially notify the Board of Supervisors of his desire. This was never done by Mr. Yerger, and Crosby claims that when forced to resign he was the legal Sheriff of the county. In this opinion he states that he is supported by Gov. Ames, and he contends that as the legal Sheriff he was fully authorized to call upon any number of citizens, white or black, to assemble in Vicksburg or any other part of the county. He would not admit that it was by his order that the negroes came to the city, but states that he feels sure they came knowing that he was in danger and hoping to sustain him in his office. They were citizens of the county, he says, and therefore justified in this action. That his life was in danger there is no doubt. After his resignation a number of brutal men from the interior of the State tried to shoot him. He was protected by Col. Miller, who commanded a company of the whites. I state this upon the best authority. Crosby says that when the white citizens demanded his resignation they were fully armed, and that his life was threatened. He is very positive in this statement. The white natives are quite as positive in the declaration that he was subjected to no violence, that those who demanded his resignation were unarmed, and that up to the time when the negroes were seen approaching the city he was not in any danger. Wishing to arrive at the truth in regard to this and other conflicting statements, I to-day conversed freely with a number of German merchants of Vicksburg—men who have no political prejudices, and who took no part in the recent conflict. They tell me that when the tax-payers went to the Court-house they made no display of arms, and that Crosby was requested to resign in the most courteous terms. He was not threatened with violence, but had he refused to comply with the demand of the citizens, they would probably have forced him to leave the county. Touching the assembling of the negroes, my informants state that they came in large number, that at least 300 of them were armed with more or less effective weapons, and that they were led by desperate and unscrupulous men. Had they been allowed to enter the town a horrible massacre of white and black would surely have been the result. It may have been unlawful for the citizens to force Crosby to give up his office, but their own safety demanded that the negroes be prevented from coming to the Court-house.

BLACK MEN AS SOLDIERS.

It has frequently been remarked that when ever a fight takes place between the whites and blacks large numbers of the latter are killed and wounded, while their opponents escape almost unharmed. This was the case during the Brooks-Baxter war in Arkansas, when in one day in Pine Bluff the wild elder, King White, and a few of his men killed not less than four hundred negroes, killing thirty of them. During the election riots at Eufaula, in Alabama, it will be remembered that several armed negroes were killed, while the white men escaped with only a few slight wounds. More recently here in Vicksburg a small army of six to eight hundred blacks are met by not more than one hundred and fifty white men, and are forced to retreat in disorder, flying in all directions, and leaving from fifty to sixty of their number dead on the field. In all the fights I have mentioned the negroes were not so well armed as the whites, but I do not think that their defeat is to be attributed to that cause alone. I am thoroughly convinced that they have a natural fear of white men, and the recent battle here has demonstrated that they are ignorant of even the first principles of warfare. Vicksburg is surrounded in all directions by steep clay hills, which were fortified during the war. The old breastworks still remain, and had the negroes been properly led they could have stationed themselves behind these and defied the small body of whites that came to meet them. Instead of doing this, however, they took up their stand on low ground, and the more adroit whites, firing from the cliffs above, killed them by the dozen. Most of the fighting took place at the Pemberton monument, and near this spot, where Gen. Grant received the sword of a rebel commander, upward of twenty black men were killed. They were freemen, but did not know how to use their freedom. During the engagement many interesting incidents were noted. Among them was the following: When the largest body of negroes was seen approaching the city, Col. Miller, a well-known lawyer, was ordered by the Mayor to take command of a squad of volunteers and go out to meet them. When just outside the city lines Miller, seeing that the negroes had stationed themselves some distance in advance, ordered his men to halt. He then walked forward alone and asked the negroes why they came into the city with arms in their hands. Their commander, a well-known and desperate mulatto, named Owens, was about to reply to this, when a half-drunken negro drew a pistol, and with an oath, exclaimed, "I'll show yer what we's come for," at the same time he leveled the pistol at Miller, and was about to fire upon him, when Owens, seeing what he was doing, ordered him to the rear, and swore he would shoot any man who fired a gun without his order. Miller was unable to convince the negroes of the folly of their course, and a fight ensued. During the engagement Owens, who fought bravely, was set upon by two men, and would have been killed had not Miller come to his rescue. When the fight was over, the Colonel took the black commander under his personal protection and brought him to a place of safety. I have already stated that, after a thorough investigation, I am of the opinion that the white citizens of Vicksburg were justified in resisting the attack of the negroes. At the same time I am assured that this could have been done with but little bloodshed. Scores of unfortunate black men were shot down while they were retreating from the city. It must be said to the credit of the white leaders that they did everything possible to stop this cruel butchery, but they were unable to restrain their men. The whites who came in from the plantations were particularly desperate and bloodthirsty. They must have known that the ignorant negroes were misguided and misled, but, blinded by passion, they had no mercy for them. While this is true, however, I must not forget to state that every black man who threw down his arms and asked for protection was allowed to go unharmed. Gov. Ames, in a letter published in the New-York *Herald*, says that negroes were shot from cotton bales while coming from town. Nothing of the kind occurred. H. C.

EXTRA SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

MESSAGE OF GOV. AMES—HE DECLARES HIMSELF POWERLESS AND MONEYLESS—SHERIFF CROSBY, OF WARREN COUNTY, IN JACKSON.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 17.—The extra session of the Legislature, called to consider the recent troubles in Vicksburg, convened to-day, and, after hearing Gov. Ames' message, adjourned until to-morrow morning. In his communication the Governor calls attention to the unlawful deposition of the Sheriff and other officers in Warren County, and denounces the subsequent killing of the negroes in the strongest terms. He makes no recommendation, and does not ask for an appropriation to organize militia, as was expected. The message concludes as follows:

"A body of violent men combined together overthrew the constitutional authorities, assumed the functions of government, and have organized as a military despotism, recognising no law but that which suits their humor or convenience. The Executive of the State is without means to meet such an emergency. He has no well-organized or disciplined Militia, not a single policeman or detective at his command, and even were the men and material in abundance, he has not a dollar to expend for such a purpose. Under such circumstances I have called you together. I invite your attention to this matter, than which none more vital to the State or more intimately connected with the welfare of the individual can come before you for your consideration, and I recommend that you take, in your wisdom, such steps as will overthrow the insurrection in Warren County, and prevent in future similar occurrences there and elsewhere; and I venture to express the hope that there are but few of our fellow-citizens who will not cheerfully respond to any demand you may make upon them."

The Republican members of the Legislature held a secret caucus this evening, but adjourned without forming any definite plan of action. It is expected, however, that a resolution will be passed asking the President to send troops into the State. This will probably be the end of the matter. No determined effort will be made to reinstate Sheriff Crosby. The official named arrived in this city yesterday evening, having been released from the Vicksburg Jail at his own request.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT—ADDITIONAL EXTRACTS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 17.—The Legislature assembled at noon to-day, nearly all the members being present. The Governor sent in his message, declaring that the present condition of affairs was brought about by violent men for political purposes. He says, at this moment the State and county authorities are successfully resisted, and the free action of the officials is impossible. Armed insurgents procure orders for local elections, with the intention that the ballots be so cast, in such a reign of terror, that the will of the majority may be wagons by the minority. The insurgents have deliberately and knowingly entered into the work of revolution, and we must face the facts as they exist. If the insurrection is successful it must reduce the majority to the will of the minority; and that minority, which means to gain power by force, must remain it by legislation as harsh and cruel as its first acts of violence. In such a case, one race will be deprived of their rights, and remanded back to an unfortunate condition as they have ever known, or also become

pelled to wander, seeking freedom and homes with many of their race in other States. He closes by requesting the Legislature to take such steps as will overthrow the insurrection in Warren County and prevent similar occurrences in the future.

LOUISIANA AFFAIRS.

THE CONSERVATIVES WAITING FOR THE RETURNS—DISTRUSTFUL OF THE RETURNING BOARD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Gentlemen of prominence residing in Louisiana, who arrived here last night, say the Conservative Party, to which they are attached, clearly elected a majority of the Legislature of that State and others of their candidates at the recent election; that the Conservatives are anxiously awaiting the report of the Returning Board, which they distrust, and, such is the feeling among them, that should the board reject any of the returns with the view solely of giving the ascendency to the Republicans, the Conservatives would undertake to right themselves by force of arms.

A REQUEST FROM GOV. KELLOGG FOR THE SPEEDY COMING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The following telegram was received at the Executive Mansion yesterday evening, and was, by direction of the President, referred to Speaker Blaine:

NEW-ORLEANS, La., Dec. 16.

I respectfully ask that you will use your influence to secure the early departure for Louisiana of the Select Committee appointed yesterday. I am confident that an investigation thorough and complete will vindicate the policy of your Administration, will strengthen the Republican Party, and will place the State Government of Louisiana in a more just light before the country. The presence of a committee here at this juncture will also go far to secure order and, I hope, contribute in some degree to bring about a solution of our difficulties.

(Signed,) W. P. KELLOGG.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RETURNING BOARD—TWENTY-THREE PARISHES GIVE THIRTY-THREE REPUBLICANS AND THIRTY-SEVEN DEMOCRATS IN THE HOUSE.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—The Returning Board has been trying the late Chief Clerk Campbell, charged with tampering with the returns and testimony, but they could not prove it. When the returns from Latourche Parish were being canvassed some important testimony, which had been missing, was filed by the Conservatives. Mr. Whitaker requested that the Conservative Committee be allowed to inspect all the papers bearing on parishes coming before the board under protest previous to considering them, in order that they might see that all the testimony was present. Gov. Wells objected, saying that it would detain the board too long. Mr. Whitaker then presented evidence proving that the signatures to the Sabine Parish returns were forgeries. The board has decided on the returns from twenty-three parishes, besides the First and Second Congressional Districts, and will promulgate them. These give in the House thirty-three Radicals and thirty-seven Conservatives.

In the case of J. B. Elam, praying for a writ of mandamus to compel the Returning Board to receive, canvass, and compile the returns of De Soto Parish, Judge Hawkins, of the Superior District Court, decided that he had no jurisdiction to issue the mandamus, as he could not come to any conclusion as to whether they were the proper returns or not, the Returning Board having been constituted for that purpose.

PRECOCIOUS WHITE LEAGUERS IN NEW-ORLEANS—A BOYS' SCHOOL ORDERS COLORED GIRLS OUT OF A GIRLS' SCHOOL, AND THEY LEAVE.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—The students of the Central Boys' High School to-day appeared at the Lower Girls' High School to compel the removal therefrom of a number of colored pupils. A committee of five entered the school and stated the purpose of their visit, threatening to use force if necessary. All the colored girls present promptly and quietly left the building, and the boys returned to their own school. It is believed that the School Board will establish an additional high school for colored children, thus obviating further trouble.

FIGHT BETWEEN WHITES AND BLACKS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE SCHOOL.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—The action of the students of the Central High School this afternoon, in demanding the removal of the colored pupils of the Lower Girls' High School, has resulted in a general mêlée between the whites and blacks, in the neighborhood of the girls' school. A colored policeman was badly hurt by being struck in the breast by a negro with a belaying pin, and a number of other persons were more or less injured. During the excitement a negro man fell dead of heart disease.

THE WEATHER.

SYNOPSIS AND PROBABILITIES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—1 A. M.—The barometer is decidedly high in the Lower Missouri Valley; it has risen in the districts east of the Mississippi, except in the South Atlantic States, and is lowest in New-Brunswick. The temperature has fallen in the lake regions and the North-west, and has risen on the Atlantic coast. Light snow and rain have prevailed in New-England and the northern portions of the Middle States and the lower lake region. Generally cloudy weather has prevailed in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, with light rain near the coast. Partly cloudy or clear weather prevails in Tennessee, the Ohio valley, the upper lake region, and the North-west. Brisk north-westerly winds continue in the lower lake region, the Middle States, and New-England.

The rivers have fallen at Pittsburg and risen at Dubuque.

PROBABILITIES.

For the upper lake region and the north-west, clear or fair weather will prevail, with south or west winds, decidedly low temperature, and slowly, falling barometer during the day.

For the lower lake region, the Middle States, and New-England, partly cloudy and colder weather, with brisk north or west winds, rising barometer, and light snow near Lake Ontario, and thence north-westward to New-Brunswick.

For the canal regions of New-York, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, the temperature will fall and remain below freezing during Friday night.

Cautionary signals continue at Portland and Eastport.

IN THIS CITY.

The following record shows the changes in the temperature during the past twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year, as recorded at Hudnut's pharmacy:

	1873.	1874.			1873.	1874.
3 A. M.	32°	34°	3:30 P. M.		49°	37°
6 A. M.	30°	34°	6 P. M.		43°	39°
9 A. M.	35°	35°	9 P. M.		42°	38°
12 M.	42°	35°	12 P. M.		38°	40°

Average temperature yesterday.....36½°

Average temperature for corresponding date last year.....38½°

THE PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF HEALTH FRAUDS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—The Joint Special Committee of the Select and Common Councils, appointed to investigate the conduct of the Board of Health in giving street-cleaning contracts, made their report to-day, showing a frightful amount of corruption in the board. In fact, it appears from this report that the Board of Health has been run for years solely for the purpose of robbing the city treasury. In the street-cleaning contracts the awards have been almost invariably made to the highest bidder, instead of the lowest, as required by law. It is shown that contracts were awarded nearly to the amount of $400,000 above the lowest bids. The report concludes with a resolution for the complete reorganization of the Board of Health

WASHINGTON.

THE DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILL.

VERY FEW AMENDMENTS MADE—NO INCREASE OF APPROPRIATIONS ALLOWED—MR. COX ON INTENDED DEMOCRATIC POLICY—THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE POST OFFICE—A THREATENED SPEECH FROM MR. BECK—THE DISTRICT BILL IN THE SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—There were very few amendments made to the Legislative Appropriation Bill to-day, and every movement looking to an increase of appropriations reported by the committee was defeated. A spirited debate arose on the paragraph making an appropriation to the Adjutant General's office. Mr. Wheeler moved to reduce the number of first-class clerks from one hundred to sixty-five. He said the action of the House yesterday in regard to the asylum for disabled volunteers cut off sufficient work from the Adjutant General's office to warrant a reduction in the clerical force. The reduction was resisted by Mr. Coburn, of Indiana, but was finally adopted. A motion made by Mr. Monroe, of Ohio, to increase the clerical force of the Bureau of Education, gave rise to the annual contest over that bureau. Mr. Cox, of New-York, wanted to strike out the entire paragraph, and announced that the Democratic policy for the next Congress would be to destroy this bureau and the agricultural department. "We will not," said Mr. Cox, "have control of the Senate next year, but if we cannot make laws we will have full power to defeat legislation." After much discussion, and several efforts to amend the paragraph, it was agreed to as reported. There was an interesting debate on the paragraph providing for the contingent expenses of the Post Office Department. One of the items reads, "For rent of house numbered 915 E street, $4,200."

Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, called attention to this item, and stated that the property was sold two years ago to the Freedman's Bank for $13,000. Shortly after this sale the building was again sold to Alexander S. Shepherd for $18,000, and leased by Shepherd to Postmaster General Creswell for $4,200 per annum. Messrs. Garfield and Tyner, of the Appropriation Committee, explained that the committee knew nothing of the valuation or ownership of the property. It was possible in leasing this building for five years, Mr. Creswell exceeded the authority of law. Last year, when the matter was first reported, they thought the rent excessive, and inserted a clause in the Appropriation bill forbidding such leasing of buildings in future, but they thought the lease could not be revoked. Messrs. Wilson, G. F. Hoar, and Randall held that it could be. No head of department has authority to bind the Government in a lease, for a number of years, without the express sanction of Congress. Because an excessive rental was paid last year, it was no reason why the same excessive rental should be paid this and following years. Mr. Randall, in reply to Mr. Garfield, that the item might be passed and afterward corrected if found to be wrong, replied: "Let us strike it out now and insert it afterward, if found to be right." Finally, on motion of G. F. Hoar, the item was reduced to $2,200, and passed. It is reported that a house, which is the exact duplicate of the one in question, and next door to it, was offered to the Post Office Department for $1,800 a year, so the allowance made by the amendment is quite large enough. Mr. Beck intends to make a speech on the administration of the Department of Justice, particularly in connection with recent events in the Southern States. Should he take the opportunity of the appropriations being under discussion to-morrow, a protracted debate may be precipitated, and leave unfinished the last two sections of the bill, one of which provides for defraying the expenses of the national loan, and the other requires heads of departments and others to furnish the Secretary of the Treasury their estimates before October 1, for the fiscal year next succeeding. If the debate on the Department of Justice does not arise, the whole bill will probably have been gone over to-morrow night.

THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT BILL.

The bill to provide a new Government for the District of Columbia met with considerable opposition in the Senate to-day. Mr. Morton assailed it on account of its abolition of the right of suffrage, and submitted an amendment providing for the election of the three regents by the qualified voters of the District instead of appointment by the President. He urged in support of this amendment that the bill, as reported by the committee, took from the people here the power of self-government. In that respect he thought it anti-republican and anti-democratic, and, in his opinion, to vote for it would be to violate the spirit of the Constitution. Mr. Morrill in reply argued that the authority of Congress over this District was supreme, and it never was intended that there should be a local self-government here. He contended that it was expedient to pass this bill, and asked Senators if they desired to return to the petty corporations which existed here in 1860, or repeat the history of the past three or four years which had been too expensive to repeat. Mr. Thurman argued that Congress had exclusive control over the District the same as over fortifications, and no one would contend that there could be any authority within a fortification hostile to the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. Mr. Bayard also opposed the amendment, and attributed the evil under which the District had suffered as due in the main to the exercise of suffrage by those totally unfit for it. Mr. Bayard opposed the section relative to the Board of Excise, and moved to strike out the portion requiring all persons taking out license to sell liquor to give bond for the faithful observance of the conditions of the license, and insert in lieu thereof a provision requiring all fees for licenses to be paid into the Treasury of the United States in advance. The amendment was rejected. Another amendment, offered by Mr. Conover, to strike out the sections in relation to a Board of Health, and insert in place thereof a section continuing the present Board of Health, was also rejected. There are many amendments to be offered to the bill, but it is now probable that few of them will be adopted, and that nearly all of the provisions reported by the committee, or at least the spirit of them, will be retained.

THE STEAM-BOAT LAW.

The reading of the steam-boat bill was finished to-day, and it was then laid over till Tuesday next, at the request of Mr. Boutwell, who stated that an officer of the Treasury who had been designated to make certain investigations in regard to some features of the new bill had not yet completed such examination, and it was desirable that the bill be postponed till his report was ready.

DUTIES ON SILK AND ALPACA.

Mr. Conkling presented a memorial to-day from citizens of New-York and Pennsylvania engaged in the manufacture of umbrellas and parasols in regard to the duties on silk and alpaca, and inquired of Mr. Sherman what disposition should be made of it, the Tariff bill now being in conference. Mr. Sherman said he would take that occasion to say he had frequently been addressed in regard to that bill, but he desired it to be understood that the Conference Committee had no power to go beyond the subject in dispute between the two Houses. The matters before the committee were, first, in regard to a modification of the tobacco tax; second, in regard to the tax on brokers' sales; and third, in regard to the tax on hops.

PATCHOGUE, LONG ISLAND, AS A PORT OF ENTRY.

The House bill to constitute the village of Patchogue, on the south side of Long Island, N. Y., a port of delivery within the collection district of New-York was to-day reported to the Senate without amendment, by Mr. Conkling, from the Committee on Commerce, and was placed on the calendar.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE DUTY ON TEA AND COFFEE.

Mr. Dawes to-day introduced a bill in the House to provide for the sinking fund and for other purposes, which restores the customs duties on tea and coffee to the rate that was levied prior to the repeal of the duties in the bill of March 1872. This is the first step that has been taken this year toward increasing the revenues of the Government. It is difficult to estimate the sentiment that prevails in Congress upon the restoration of this tax. There is certainly a good deal of feeling favorable to the passage of Mr. Dawes' bill, and there is also strong opposition. There is no particular reason to suppose that there has been change enough since the repeal of the bill to effect its restoration, but it certainly has very earnest supporters, and it may be said generally to be in accordance with the views of most of the officers of the Government. It may be coupled with the measures for the resumption of specie payments in such a manner as to strengthen both propositions.

THE COMMITTEE ON RAILROADS AND CANALS.

The House Committee on Railroads and Canals have agreed to recommend a bill providing for the construction of the Hennepin ship-canal from Chicago to the Mississippi River. The entire cost for the work is estimated at $4,000,000, and the bill agreed upon will provide for an appropriation of one-fourth of that amount during the present session. This committee have reported favorably the bill for the building of the Washington, Cincinnati, and St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Government to guarantee the interest on their bonds at the rate of $17,500 per mile of road constructed east of the Alleghany Mountains, and $10,000 per mile west of the mountains. The construction of the Portland, Dallas, and Salt Lake Road will also probably be recommended, with a Government guarantee on their bonds to the amount of $8,000 per mile. Messrs. Hurlburt, Sherwood, and Stone were appointed a subcommittee to consider all plans submitted or suggested for the construction of railroads and canals, their feasibility, advantages, cost, and other features. Mr. Hurlburt obtained permission to report the bill offered by him at the last session, but the members of the committee do not in any way stand committed to it. The Fort St. Philip Canal bill will be reported by the committee. Some of the bills are reported *pro forma*, in order that they may be considered by the House.

MR. RAINEY AND MR. LEE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

An amusing incident occurred to-day in the room of the Sergeant at Arms. Samuel Lee, the colored member of the Capitol Police, was addressed by Sergeant at Arms Ordway, and informed that he had a document that would prove of interest to him. He then handed him a written protest against his continuance on the Capitol Police force, signed by Mr. Rainey, member of Congress from the First District of South Carolina, and against whom Lee ran for a seat in the Forty-fourth Congress. Lee perused the document and returned it to Mr. Ordway. Taking a packet from his pocket he said: "And I have here a document which will prove of interest to Mr. Rainey." He then filed a notice of his purpose to contest Mr. Rainey's right to a seat in the next Congress from the First South Carolina District.

THE SOUTHERN OUTRAGES COMMITTEE.

The Select Committee on Southern Outrages have not yet determined when they will start for Louisiana. The question which seems to trouble the committee just now is whether they will go during the holidays. Some of the members are loath to abandon the good cheer of the holiday season for the unpleasant task of investigating outrages. A meeting of the committee will be held to-morrow, when the time for the departure will be determined.

Dispatch to the Associated Press.

THE "LITTLE TARIFF BILL."

The Committee of Conference on the Tariff bill had a conference this afternoon on the disagreements of the two Houses, but came to no conclusion. They heard Commissioner Douglass on certain articles the taxes on which would be affected by the passage of the bill.

THE WASHINGTON, CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS AND CHICAGO RAILROAD.

The House Committee on Railways and Canals today, by an almost unanimous vote, agreed to report a bill recommending the Government to guarantee the bonds of the Washington, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago Railroad. The projectors of the road represent the country through which the road will pass as rich in coal and iron of the best quality, and offer to carry freights at one half the present rates.

A CONTESTANT FOR MR. RAINEY'S SEAT IN THE HOUSE.

Samuel Lee, through his counsel, Judge Paschal, has served a notice of contest on Representative Rainey, of the First District of South Carolina, claiming he was recently elected over Rainey.

LAKE AND SEA-COAST NAVIGATION SIGNALS.

Notice is given by the Light-house Board: That on and after the opening of navigation in the Spring of 1875 a steam fog-whistle, giving a blast of four seconds each minute, will be sounded during thick and foggy weather, at South Manitou Island light-station, Lake Michigan. In case of accident to the fog-whistle a fog-bell, struck by machinery, will be sounded. The fog signal-house is about thirty-six yards north-east of the light-house. That the beacon lights at Michigan City, Indiana, Lake Michigan, have been moved from the end of the east pier to the end of the west pier. That on and after Feb. 1, 1875, a light will be shown from the light-house recently erected at the south-east end of Block Island, Rhode Island. The light will be fixed white, and should be seen in clear weather, from the deck of a vessel fifteen feet above the sea, twenty-one nautical miles. Notice is also given that the fog signal at Point Bonita, California, which was temporarily discontinued for repairs, will be again in operation on and after the 1st of January, 1875.

THE POST-OFFICE DEFICIENCIES.

The Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads had before them to-day the subject of deficiencies in the Post-office Department, and appointed a subcommittee to visit the department on Saturday and inquire into the causes of the large increase.

INQUIRY INTO THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Petitions from the National Temperance Society and other temperance organizations and churches, representing over 300,000 petitioners, were presented in the House to-day, asking for the early passage of the bill to provide for a Commission of Inquiry concerning the alcoholic liquor traffic, which passed the Senate last session. Judge Poland will report the bill from the Committee on the Judiciary soon after the holiday recess, and it is probable that it will pass the House.

THE CANAL ROUTE FROM ASPINWALL TO PANAMA.

The Special Commission, consisting of Gen. Humphreys, Prof. Peirce, and Commodore Ammen, appointed by the President to examine and report upon all information relative to the canal routes across the American isthmus, have received a statement relative to the feasibility of the route from Aspinwall to Panama, which in their opinion deserves to be tested by a careful survey, and for this purpose Congress has been asked to appropriate $12,000. It is desirable that immediate action should be had in this matter, in order that the surveying party may get to work in time to complete the survey before the rainy season sets in. In order to accomplish this the party should be on the ground early in January. The Panama route has many advocates, among them some of the first engineers of this country and Europe. The route is claimed to be shorter than any other, and the elevation less by several hundred feet. Besides, the Chagres River furnishes abundance of water for all purposes. If the canal should be located on this route the Panama Railroad could be used to facilitate the work of its construction.

THE CENTRAL PACIFIC AND THE CONTRACT AND FINANCE COMPANY.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads will meet to-morrow, when Representative Luttrell will go before them to urge an immediate report on his resolution, directing the investigating of the affairs of the Central Pacific Railroad and the Contract and Finance Company. Failing in this, he says he will, at the earliest practicable moment, offer a resolution in the House to compel a report.

KING KALAKAUA DECLINES A PRIVATE DINNER.

The following correspondence has passed between Ex-Market Master Sidney McFarland and his Majesty David Kalakaua, King of Hawaii:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14, 1874.

To His Majesty King David Kalakaua, King of the Sandwich Islands:

SIR: I have the honor and take pleasure in asking your Majesty to accept a private dinner, the congratulations and welcome of the colored people of the United States through a few of their representative men to be present, on Thursday evening, Dec. 17, at my residence, No. 1,340 V street North-west, in this city. With considerations of high esteem, I am, Sir, your obedient servant, SIDNEY MCFARLAND.

THE KING'S REPLY.

His Majesty King Kalakaua regrets that other engagements will prevent his acceptance of the polite invitation of Mr. Sidney McFarland.

THE ARLINGTON, Monday, Dec. 14.

BY MAIL AND TELEGRAPH.

Hiram Blanchard, leader of the Opposition in the Nova Scotia Assembly, died at Halifax yesterday.

George Wardman, a lad eighteen years of age, was drowned at Andover, Mass., yesterday while skating.

Sir Hugh Allan, of Montreal, was a passenger by the steam-ship Prussian, which arrived at Portland, Me., yesterday.

In a row among colored men at Montgomery, Ala., yesterday one man was shot and another stabbed, but neither fatally.

The ten barges frozen in at Catskill got away on Wednesday night, and passed Dutchess Junction yesterday morning, with four steamers towing them.

George Carson, accused by Mrs. Cordelia Doherty of the murder of Nathaniel Brown in July last, was bound over for trial in Bangor, Me., yesterday.

The body of a man, supposed to be one of the crew of the schooner Robert Pettis, was found on Conanicut, R. I., yesterday. An inquest will be held to-morrow.

The steamer Ansonia, of Saugerties, was cut into by ice near Tivoli, on Wednesday, when her pilot beached her. Repairs were made and she got off on Wednesday night.

Paymaster General Benjamin Alvord, last night, while leaving the rotunda of the Capitol, by way of the east portico, slipped and fell down the steps, breaking one of his legs.

Several petitions were received by the Government at Ottawa, Canada, yesterday, praying for a commutation of Lepine's sentence. One petition from Manitoba had 1,800 signatures.

The ladies' Centennial Tea Party, in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, was repeated last night. It is supposed they will realize about $10,000 in aid of the Centennial celebration.

Gov. Bragden, of North Carolina, yesterday commuted the sentence of David Martin, a colored youth, who was to be hung in Wilmington to-day for murder, to imprisonment for life in the Penitentiary.

The Merrimack River never was so low before at this season as it is now. Yesterday the factories at Lawrence, Mass., commenced drawing on Lake Winnipiseogee, New-Hampshire, for a water supply.

John Clark, the engineer of the water-works at Harrisburg, Penn., was killed, and a laborer named Taylor was injured, yesterday, by the pressure of water forcing off the cap of a twenty-inch main.

The Governor and Council of Massachusetts yesterday inspected the improvements in Mill River Valley made under State aid. The work of restoration throughout the deluged valley is now nearly complete.

The Tanners' and Leather-dealers' Convention at Chicago, yesterday, formed an association for their mutual benefit, and adopted a classification of hides by which they are to be governed in making purchases.

The Superior Court of Fulton County, Ga., yesterday sustained the law taxing the railroads of the State, excepting the Georgia Railroad and the Augusta and Savannah Railroad. The case will be brought to the Supreme Court.

The Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, at Montgomery, Ala., has adjourned. Rev. Jefferson Hamilton, one of the ablest and purest divines of the conference, sickened and died during the session.

Judge E. M. Kiels, of the Eufaula City Court, Montgomery, Ala., now in Washington, has resigned. Articles of impeachment were pending in the General Assembly against him. He is also under indictment for felony. Gen. Alpheus Baker has been appointed to succeed him.

An anonymous communication was received by Mayor Stokley, of Philadelphia, yesterday, threatening violence if employment was not supplied for the starving poor, and complaining that Italians were working on the Centennial building, excluding actual citizens. It was signed, "Secret Six."

The Class of '76 of Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., has made the following appointments for Junior Exhibition: President, Newton W. Cadwell, Meridian; Orator, Julien Molinard Elhot, New-York City; Poet, Frank F. Davis, Newark; Prophet, Humphrey McMaster, Bath; Historian, James F. Bradie, Hammond. Hamilton College will not be represented this year at the inter-collegiate literary contest.

A SPIRITIST FRAUD EXPOSED.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Dec. 17.—The Philadelphia *Inquirer* of to-morrow will contain a full exposé of the Katie King swindle, the facts having been obtained from a gentleman who unearthed the fraud. He traced the supposed Katie to a boarding-house, and after a long-continued effort, persuaded her to confess the deception she had been practicing, and to produce the gauzy dresses she wore at the manifestations. The production of the latter, with a large lot of jewelry, &c., that had been presented to Katie at séances, induced Robert Dale Owen and Dr. Child, two leading spiritualists of this city, to publicly repudiate the swindle.

LATEST NEWS BY CABLE.

GERMANY.

THREATENED RESIGNATION OF PRINCE BISMARCK—THE VOTE OF THE REICHSTAG ON ARRESTS OF ITS MEMBERS REGARDED AS A WANT OF CONFIDENCE.

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—It is rumored that Prince Bismarck regards the action of the Reichstag yesterday, in voting that in order to uphold its dignity the Constitution should be amended so as to prevent the arrest of a Deputy during a session, as equivalent to a vote of want of confidence, and is determined to resign. It is further said that in consequence of this view of the Chancellor, the resolution will be modified at to-day's sitting of the Reichstag.

The *Post* of this city, in its issue to-day, expresses the hope that Prince Bismarck has not yet definitively decided to resign from the Government, but adds that however deplorable such a decision by the Chancellor must be regarded, it would not be productive of imminent danger to the State.

The *Kreuz Zeitung* says that the rumors of the Chancellor's resignation emanated from his intimate friends, who say that the Prince declared that he was weary, and that it is impossible for him to govern with the present majority in the Reichstag.

Another report gives Herr Denzin, a Deputy in the Reichstag, as the authority for the statement that the Prince intends resigning his portfolio in the Government. Herr Denzin, it is stated, announced that Prince Bismarck had said that in view of the vacillating majority in the Reichstag he would be forced to resign.

INTERVIEW OF THE EMPEROR AND BISMARCK—REPORTED SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION WITH PARLIAMENT.

BERLIN, Dec. 17—Evening.—Prince Bismarck had an interview with the Emperor to-day. Rumors of his resignation are still repeated, but in some Parliamentary circles it is reported that the difficulty has been completely settled. The opinion is almost unanimously held that yesterday's action of the Reichstag was not a vote of want of confidence, and it is considered certain that even if the Chancellor has tendered his resignation, the Emperor will not accept it.

BISMARCK'S RESIGNATION TENDERED AND REFUSED.

LONDON, Dec. 18—6 A. M.—A special dispatch to the *Morning Post*, from Berlin, says:

"It is positively asserted that Prince Bismarck tendered his resignation, which was refused. He afterward conferred with the leaders of the national party regarding the future conduct of affairs in Parliament, and an understanding was secured."

GREAT BRITAIN.

PUNISHMENT OF A MUTINOUS CREW.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The crew of the brig Brocklesby, which arrived at Liverpool, from Galveston, on the 15th inst., were in a state of mutiny. A hearing in their cases resulted in their sentence to imprisonment for terms ranging from six to eight weeks.

FRANCE.

HEAVY FALL OF SNOW—THE ROOF OF A MARKET CRUSHED BY THE WEIGHT AND MANY PERSONS KILLED AND INJURED.

PARIS, Dec. 17.—There was quite a heavy fall of snow in the northern section of France yesterday. In the City of Angers, capital of the Department of Maine-et-Loire

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

SAINTINE AND DORÉ.

THE MYTHS OF THE RHINE. Translated from the French of X. B. SAINTINE, by Prof. M. SCHELE DE VERE, LL.D. With more than 150 illustrations by GUSTAVE DORÉ. New-York: SCRIBNER, ARMSTRONG & Co.

About the holiday season adjectives as applied to books seem to lose their force, and to some extent their meaning. The wealth of illustration which publishers bestow upon the inside, and the gorgeous embellishment of gold, heightened by black, which decks the outside of the distinctive gift book generally call for substantially the same characterizations. Now and then, however, a volume appears, even in holiday garb, which asserts its claims to recognition on the strength of its contents, as well as because of originality in illustration, and to this class *The Myths of the Rhine* belongs. The subject is one of perennial interest and attractiveness; the author who discourses upon it has secured an audience in advance by his pathetic story of *Picciola*, and Doré's illustrations display the wonderful powers of that versatile artist in an exceptionally attractive manner. The designs evidently were executed at that stage of Doré's career when the love of humor was predominant. Now and then there is a glimpse of the grand and gloomy, which has become so marked, and frequently so wearisome, a characteristic of his later work, but in this volume these touches are so few that they only serve to throw into stronger relief the irrepressible humor of which by far the larger part of the designs are the spontaneous expression. Undoubtedly the spirit in which the text is written had much to do in imparting this tone to the illustrations. First and last we have had quite enough of the sober rehearsal of the myths and legends connected with the Rhine. Impatient of this almost invariably solemn treatment of subjects which have their ludicrous side for those who will seek it, and apparently in remembrance of the fact, which he concedes in the very first sentence of the book, that the Rhine is "essentially a German river," M. Saintine discusses its myths with a sportive freedom, a skeptical questioning, and a witty bandinage which may be accepted as the Gallic view of that which the Teutons venerate. "I—a scholar! Great God! Let the reader not be disturbed," he exclaims. "My purpose in writing this work was nothing more than to try and collect along the banks of the Rhine all the curious myths which have survived the ancient creeds of Europe; for they have all come to the great river. There the traveler finds piled up after the manner of alluvial layers, all the ancient fables, all the marvelous and often childish tales, to which the credulity and lively imagination of our forefathers gave a ready welcome. With the exception of a very few cases in which the grave nature of the subject lifts one necessarily into higher regions, I wish mainly to tell you once more *Grandmamma's Tales*. * * * No, I am too great a lover of tales of a tub ever to have claimed the reputation of being a scholar; but at times I like to glean a little where scholars have reaped. I have been shown the best spots, and I pilfer as well as I can—that is all. An ignoramus and a pilferer, I resemble a bee which might fly into a botanical garden, and, utterly unacquainted with the Latin names of flowers, carry off joyously a rich harvest, without pretending to be able to make academic honey." Still earlier he says: "What happy people scholars are! They can converse with people who have been dead these 3,000 years, and the grave has no secrets for them! A single word bequeathed to us by an extinct people enables them to reconstruct that whole race."

This is, of course, all the warning needed that archæologists may not turn to M. Saintine's pages in the hope of finding any learned discussion of their theories. It should at the same time be sufficient intimation that in *The Myths of the Rhine* are many fables of the olden time and numerous legends not generally familiar, rehearsed in a manner so witty and graceful as to make it certain that they can never be forgotten. Beginning with the primitive times, M. Saintine tells us of the Germanic races who wandered to and fro in Europe, making the Rhine their great highway. Then the Druids and their creed are described. Touching their treatment of "that abject little plant, unknown and miserable in appearance"—the mistletoe,—which lived on the life-blood of the sacred oak, feeding on its sap, absorbing its substance, and finally "carrying its impudence so far as to conceal the glossy leaves of the noble, god-like tree under its own lustreless and viscous foliage," we have the following: "Other people, less intelligent, less sagacious than the Druids," writes M. Saintine, "would have freed the tree from this unwelcome and obnoxious visitor by simply climbing up and cutting off the parasite by means of a pruning bill. * * * The Druids did much better. They treated the mistletoe very much as we, in our day, treat a formidable member of the opposition; they gave it a place in the sanctuary. The mistletoe was proclaimed to be an official and sacred plant, and became an essential part of their worship. When it was to be detached from the tree this was not done stealthily and by a mean iron bill-hook, but in the presence of all, amid public rejoicings, and accompanied by solemn chants. The instrument was a golden reaping-hook, and with it the Gnythil was carefully cut off at the base and gathered in linen veils. These veils became henceforth sacred, and were not allowed to be used for ordinary purposes."

The acceptance by the Druids of the oak, and afterward of horses, as oracles, gives M. Saintine an opportunity for a witty thrust at the poor esteem in which these Druids held the women. One fine day, he tells us, there arose new rivals to these prophetic horses, which had come to "form almost a part of the Druidical clergy. * * * Other living creatures entered into competition with them, and these rivals of the horses were—shall I say it?—were women. These women discovered, all of a sudden, that women had something more instructive and more divine in them than men, nay, even than horses. Their sensitive organization predisposed them to receive the gift of prophecy, and "hence women act more readily from natural impulse, without reflection, than from thought or reason." This last utterance M. Saintine takes care to tell us, is the exclusive property of M. Simon Pelloutier. "Let every one," he adds, "be responsible for his own works."

In the chapters following this on the Druids there are discussed the invasion of Germany by the Roman gods, the world before and since Odin, and the confederation of all the Northern gods. The elementary spirits of the air and of the water, including sylphs, will o' the wisps, white elves and black elves, the gnomes, and the undines, are described, and then the familiar spirits, such as the Kobolds, the Killecroffs, and the white angels, are passed in review. Two brief passages from this chapter on the familiar spirits will give a partial idea of the entertaining and witty style in which M. Saintine disposes of these imaginary dwellers along the Rhine. Of the Killecroffs he writes:

"How can a real Killecroff be recognized, since he is as invisible as a poetic conception, counted in among the Kobolds? From his first appearance in the world she Killecroff excites entertainment, and sometimes the admiration of his reputed parents. He smiles so sweetly, and with such an expression that you would be tempted to be reminded by two gentle and a cry. How nice he is! Good God! What is to succeed a new-born infant? He swallows his soup by the spoonful, in which he sometimes and two tortoises in the best round dumplings a cabbage weeks old, consisting of the whole garden. He grows up and thinks himself in ecstasies around him; he provokes quarrels not only among the servants, but even between his parents. If some untoward event occurs he roars with laughter; on a day of rejoicing he sheds tears and moans piteously. He takes a stick or a spit and rides on it in his room from morning till evening, climbing on every chair and table, breaking everything that comes in his way, injuring himself also quite as readily, provoking cats, dogs, and even the parrot on his perch, till they mew and bark and scream. Then he runs to the stable and sticks a pin into the croup of a horse to see it kick, and then breaks open the doors and locks by the aid of a huge stick of wood; next he rushes into the garden, playing the part of a tempest there, destroying, uprooting, and breaking everything.

"In the pantry you'll be wringing the hens' necks and walks over the young chickens; in the kitchen he loves to take up the tops of pots and pans and to season the dishes according to his fancy with salt, pepper, dust, ashes, oil, vinegar, mustard, sand, or sawdust, and never leaves without having turned on the water everywhere.

"If a visitor arrives, he takes possession of him and stands between his legs and walks on his toes, pulls the buttons off his waistcoat and draws the strings out of his shoes. He troubles and annoys him in every way; he pinches and scratches, he worries and tortures him. When his mother meritoriously observes that he must not trouble the gentleman, he obeys like a good child and leaves the gentleman alone, but not without having first broken his watch-chain, taken his cane, and hid his spectacles. The cane he drops accidentally into the well; as for the spectacles he forgets where he has put them. When the poor visitor, quite overcome and exhausted, at last rises to go, he stumbles and falls down stairs, thanks to a string which his playful young friend the Killecroff, has twisted across the top step. Such are Killecroffs are generally the delight of their parents."

Those household sprites, the helpful Kobolds, are so well known that their name needs only to be mentioned. The two classes which follow are not so familiar:

"The Little White Ladies are more delicate than the Kobolds in their instincts, and often quite fastidious. They like only blood horses, Arab or Turkish horses, and hence the popular idea that they have originated in the East. They slip into the stables of wealthy people, while the grooms are asleep; here they light a small candle, which they always keep about them, and then proceed to business. In the morning, when the head coachman makes his round to see that everything is right, he sometimes finds a drop of wax on the smooth coat of a sorrel or an Isabel-colored horse, and then he says to the groome: 'You have not had much to do to-day, my friends, with your horses; I see the little lady has been here.'

"The Zotterals are of unmistakable German origin, for they take care of horses without regard to race, and without the help of a wax candle. They have, of course, harder work to do, and are more apt to become soiled or to have accidents; but, nevertheless, they accomplish their purposes. They are naturally easily tired, and hence they require a knot to be made on the mane of a horse, where they can suspend themselves and rest. There is not a peasant on the banks of the Rhine or the Meuse who would neglect this duty, and I have myself often seen them attend to it carefully. Formerly the Zotterals also protected sheep against thistle-heads, and kept their wool from getting tangled; they even derived their name from Zotte, which means a flock of wool. In those days, it must be presumed, from the habits of those benevolent little people, the fleece must have been whiter and better kept than they are nowadays; but sheep raisers had the unlucky idea, produced, probably, by avarice, that not a particle of wool should be left on ram or ewe, and thus deprived their tiny friends of all means to rest and recover breath when hard at work. The Zotterals looked upon this neglect of what was due to them as an insult, and abandoned the flocks of sheep for the horses in the stables. Besides, they found it impossible to live on good terms with the shepherds' dogs."

Among the repositories of mythologic and fairy lore this treatise of M. Saintine—if it be in place to characterize so formally this witty account of the divinities of the ancients and their diminutive successors—will always hold a place of its own, and it is a little singular that it should now for the first time have been translated into English. As none but the author of *Picciola* could have produced such a unique volume upon this fascinating subject, so no pencil but that of Doré could have given visible form with such effectiveness to the beings of the imagination whom Saintine describes. There is irresistible humor in the artist's conception of those "happy people," the scholars, and the same is true of his representation of old Father Rhine, and the changes which were worked in him through the blandishments of Bacchus and the crowds of gods and goddesses who invaded Germany in his train. Without particularizing further, it is enough to say that everywhere Doré's pencil not only keeps pace with Saintine's pen, but that here and there it interprets the idea of the author more effectively than does the text itself. The volume is handsomely and even luxuriously produced, and in the gorgeousness of its binding is fully up to the requirements of the popular taste, which seems to demand such a lavish expenditure of gilt as to be almost wearisome to the eye.

THE FINANCES OF ALABAMA.

AN ACT APPOINTING COMMISSIONERS TO LIQUIDATE AND ADJUST THE LEGAL LIABILITIES OF THE STATE.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 17.—The Legislature adjourned to-day until the 13th of January.

The following act has been approved by the Governor:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Alabama, that the Governor of this State be, and he is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint two citizens of this State who shall constitute a Board of Commissioners, who shall hold their office for the term of two years from the date of their appointment, unless the duties hereby confided shall be sooner performed. The Governor of the State shall, ex officio, also be a member of said Board of Commissioners.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of said Commissioners, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to take charge and ascertain, liquidate, and adjust, the subsisting legal liabilities of the State of Alabama on the bonds issued, and the bonds indorsed on the State of Alabama, and the coupons on the same, in such manner as the interests of the State may require, and by negotiation to provide for the payment of such amount of the said several legal liabilities, as may be arranged for under the powers hereby conferred, and the interest that may be agreed to be paid upon the principal so negotiated, in such a manner and at such times as to them may seem advisable, and for this purpose said Commissioners shall, by advertisement or otherwise, at as early a day as practicable, require the presentation of all claims of the character aforesaid to them, with the amount claimed, and may inquire into the consideration alleged to have been paid or given to the State therefor, or that is alleged in support of the liability claimed against the State; provided, however, that no adjustment of said alleged liabilities or any part thereof, or an arrangement for the payment of any sum in discharge thereof, shall be binding on the State unless and until approved and ratified by the General Assembly thereof.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted that said Commissioners be and they are hereby required to report their action in the premises to the Governor, who shall at each session of the General Assembly during the continuance of said commission, communicate the same or so much thereof as may not be incompatible with the public interest to the General Assembly of the State of Alabama.

The Governor has appointed L. W. Lawler, of Talladega, and T. B. Bethea, of Montgomery, as Commissioners. They are men of great financial ability.

THE HILT FORGERY CASE.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Dec. 17.—Another hearing was fixed for to-day, before Commissioner Biddle, in the case of George F. Hilt, charged with forging bonds of the United States. Mr. Brewster read a note from Dr. W. Goodman stating that he deemed it advisable to have Mr. Hilt removed to his house at Tioga, which had been done. Communications were also read, however, from Drs. Dallam and Goodman stating that the defendant was not yet in a condition to admit of his leaving his home. The case was then continued until Thursday next.

PRESBYTERIAN CONVENTION AT SYRACUSE.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 17.—The State Convention of active, working young Presbyterians began here this evening. About 100 delegates are present. Rev. S. P. Clark, of Owego, presided at the opening session, which was mainly devoted to devotional exercises. An eminently practical address on the methods of lay work was made by Edward Bristol, of Buffalo.

THE ERIE RAILWAY—A REPORT CONTRADICTED.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 17.—The reports in New-York that the Attorney General's injunction on the Erie Railway Company has been dissolved are unfounded; in fact there is no such injunction. The Attorney General, in consenting to bring suit some time since, refused to apply for an injunction.

TWEED AGAIN IN COURT.

THE RETURN TO THE SECOND WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

THE PROCEEDINGS POSTPONED—THE PRISONER TO HAVE ANOTHER DAY'S RECREATION—EFFORTS OF THE LAWYERS—PUSHING THE CASE TO THE HIGHER COURTS—INDIFFERENCE OF TWEED'S FORMER FOLLOWERS.

William M. Tweed was again before the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday, and, owing to the nature of the proceedings, the notorious criminal will pay another visit to the City on Tuesday next. The ex-Ring chief was brought into court yesterday in obedience to the writ of habeas corpus issued by Judge Lawrence, in the Supreme Court, on a petition presented by Tweed claiming that he is not committed or detained by virtue of any process issued by a court of the United States or a Judge thereof, and that he is not committed or detained by virtue of the formal judgment or decree of any tribunal of competent jurisdiction. Tweed was brought down from the Penitentiary in charge of Warden Liscomb, who, the convict is made to say, detains him illegally. At the landing, foot of Twenty-sixth street, he was met by his two sons, William M. Tweed, Jr., and Richard Tweed, and his private Secretary, Foster Dewey. The party drove to the Court-house in a close carriage, and here Warden Liscomb got rid of his charge, delivering him over to the proper official. There was no excitement manifested, and the curiosity-seekers or admirers of "the Boss" were few indeed, and the court room was not crowded, admission was readily procurable, and the proceedings were characterized generally by a notable indifference on the part of the public. A few obscure adherents of Tammany were present, but no politician of any note in that party put in an appearance. Before the proceedings commenced Tweed had an interview in the ante-room with his counsel, Messrs. Field, Comstock, Bartlett, Root, Baker and Ex-Judge Fullerton. The proceedings took place before Judge Barrett, District Attorney Phelps, representing the people. Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham, who was the associate of Mr. Lyman Tremain in the prosecution of the indictment against Tweed, was also present. When the convict made his appearance in court in obedience to the writ, he appeared to be in robust health, and in no way the victim of a rigorous prison discipline. He conversed with his sons, his Secretary, and Charles Devlin, who was one of his bondsmen. The proceedings commenced by Mr. Field inquiring if the Warden of the Penitentiary had made a return to the writ, followed by an effort on the part of the District Attorney to have the writ quashed and dismissed, as it seemed to him to raise no other or different questions than the writ formerly argued. The court, however, thought that the Warden should make a return, and it was accordingly made. I proved to be nothing beyond the most formal kind of legal document, which acknowledged, with stiff legal verbiage and great particularity, the receipt of the writ of habeas corpus, gave the information that there was at the time in the New-York Penitentiary the body of William M. Tweed, who the Warden believed to be the person named in the document in question, and stated that he produced the person so mentioned. This return brought forth an elaborate traverse on the part of Tweed's counsel, and, the District Attorney requiring time to consider whether he would join issue with or demur to portions of the traverse, the matter was allowed to stand over until Tuesday next, Tweed, meanwhile, being remanded to the custody of Warden Liscomb, by whom he was taken back to the Penitentiary. At the close of the proceedings a considerable crowd had assembled outside the Court-house to get a view of the celebrated convict, but the enthusiasm and interest exhibited in former days were wanting. The anxiety to press on the matter, as stated by Tweed's counsel, is in order that the whole case may be ready for the Court of Appeals by the first Monday in January. One of the points which counsel intends to raise is that the indictment of Tweed did not originate with the Grand Jury itself, but was found on the complaint of Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

At the sitting of the court the proceedings were opened by Mr. Field, who said: A writ of habeas corpus has been issued to the Warden of the Penitentiary, returnable here this morning. I beg to ask if the Warden has made the return?

Mr. Phelps—In obedience to the direction of the writ, the Warden has produced in court the body of the party mentioned in the return, and I have in my hand a copy of the writ and the petition for its allowance, which, after such examination as I have been able to give to it in the time that has elapsed since we have received it, seems to me to raise no other or different questions than those that were raised in the application heretofore made to this court. I had expected to express my views on the subject at that time on the motion I made to dismiss the previous writ, to quash and to dismiss it, and I renew that motion now in regard to this writ. I ask your Honor to quash and dismiss the writ upon the same ground which I stated before, and I presume it is unnecessary to repeat it, as the learned counsel were present.

Mr. Field—I must ask if there is a return. We have a right to the return before anything is said. This court is not in possession of anything until that return is made. The Judge cannot take notice of it until a return is made; it was granted by another Judge, and I wish a return. We have a right to it, and when that return is made any motion can be made. I ask now if there is a return; if not, I shall move for an attachment. I am not right in an explicit answer as to whether there is a return or not. The Warden is here; I don't know but that the District Attorney represents him. I ask that the Warden be asked to return the writ, "and," addressing himself to the Warden, "have you got it, Mr. Liscomb?"

Mr. Phelps—I have a motion, if the court please, to dismiss this writ upon the petition and upon the writ itself.

Mr. Field—A motion to one Judge to dismiss a writ granted by another Judge on a petition which is not here—I should like to know what sort of a proceeding that is. There is nothing here at all yet, Sir. There is nothing before you. The gentleman, of course, has made some observations, but upon what papers? There is nothing before you that I know of.

A RETURN TO THE WRIT ORDERED.

The Court—I think there ought to be a return to the writ.

Mr. Field—Let us have the return.

The Court—The writ that was previously quashed was issued by myself. This writ is issued by Judge Lawrence on a petition which, I presume, is on file. I suppose there ought to be a return.

Mr. Phelps—I suppose that before the return is made the petition upon which this writ is granted, which is part of the proceedings, should be before your Honor.

Mr. Field—No, Sir. That petition cannot be here at all. Why should it be? It belongs to the Judge to whom it was addressed. It does not belong to the Court of Oyer and Terminer at all. This is the Oyer and Terminer; here is the Judge sitting at the Oyer and Terminer, and what have you to do with a proceeding in the Supreme Court? No, Sir. That petition is not here; it cannot be spoken to. There may be, for aught you know, no petition. That is not a matter of concern to anybody. The return is the first thing required by law.

The Court—I agree with you.

Mr. Field—Yes, Sir; then let us have it.

THE RETURN.

Mr. Phelps—I have the honor to present the return of the Warden that he produces the body of the prisoner, that he holds him under and by virtue of the paper annexed and the return, which is the same paper as that attached to your petition.

Mr. Phelps then handed in the return, which reads as follows:

The undersigned, Warden of the New-York Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island, respectfully returns and says that he received the annexed paper A on the 15th of December, A. D. 1874, at 1:25 P. M., at which time there was in the New-York Penitentiary, of which he is the Warden the body of William M. Tweed, who he believes to be the person named in said paper marked A, and he was so there under custody as being the person in an original paper, of which the annexed paper marked B is a copy. And the original, which I now produce, and which I received on the 29th November, A. D. 1874, together with the body of the said Tweed, and whom I have had and retained ever since, under and by virtue of said original paper or warrant of commitment, and in returning the undersigned produces the body of said prisoner, in obedience to the command expressed in paper A.

JOSEPH L. LISCOMB,
Warden of the Penitentiary.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND, Dec. 17, 1874.

Mr. Field—Excuse me one moment while I look at this.

Mr. Phelps—The original commitment is in the possession of the Warden.

TRAVERSE TO THE RETURN.

Mr. Field—I file this traverse, which I now produce, to that return.

Mr. Phelps—If the court please, I find that this traverse has some ten paragraphs which appear to be different allegations with respect to the subject matter. As I have no time to examine it, I should desire before I determine what to do, whether to demur or to join issue upon this traverse—I should desire time to consider it.

Mr. Field—Will you allow me to read it?

Mr. Phelps—You saw fit to file it before you read it.

Mr. Field then read the following traverse:

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER—CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW-YORK—The People on the relation of William M. Tweed against Joseph L. Liscomb. The answer of William M. Tweed to the return of Joseph L. Liscomb to the writ of habeas corpus in this case. Said William M. Tweed says and avers:

First—That there is no record of the judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction which in terms authorizes or purports to authorize the issuing of the pretended warrant of commitment, a copy whereof is annexed to said return.

Second—That there is no record of the judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction which in law or fact did or does authorize the issuing of the said warrant of commitment.

Third—That the court from which the said warrant of commitment, annexed to the said return, purports to have been issued, had no jurisdiction nor power to try the alleged misdemeanors mentioned in the said warrant of commitment.

Fourth—That the pretended jury by whom this relator is alleged in the said warrant to have been tried and convicted, was not impanneled according to the law of the land, was not a lawful jury, and had no jurisdiction or power to try the said supposed offenses, or to render any verdict respecting the same.

Fifth—That the alleged judgment, in execution of which the said pretended warrant of commitment was issued, was, and is, absolutely void, for want of jurisdiction to render the same.

Sixth—That the pretended trial and the pretended conviction of the relator were for one misdemeanor only, for which no imprisonment for more than one year, and no fine greater than $250 could be pronounced or adjudged against him, and that for such alleged misdemeanor and conviction the relator has already been imprisoned for more than one year under said pretended warrant, and has paid a fine of $250.

Seventh—That the said one year's imprisonment was lawful, which the relator denies, each and every pretended sentence of the said court, whereby said relator was condemned to any further or other imprisonment or to pay any further or other fine, was and is void.

Eighth—That the term of the relator's imprisonment, under the said pretended warrant of commitment, has expired.

Ninth—That the said pretended warrant of commitment does not conform to any judgment or pretended judgment of any court, and is not warranted or authorized by the same.

Tenth—That the said warrant of commitment is void for want of a specification of the offense or offenses whereof it is pretended that the relator was convicted.

(Signed,) WILLIAM M. TWEED.

State, County, and City of New-York, ss.: William M. Tweed, being sworn, says that the foregoing answer is true of his own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters he believes it to be true.

(Signed,) WILLIAM M. TWEED.

Sworn to before me this 17th day of December, A. D. 1874.

J. C. HALLIGAN,
Notary Public, New-York County.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S MOTION FOR A POSTPONEMENT.

Mr. Phelps—I will have to renew my application.

Mr. Field—What is the application?

Mr. Phelps—I am not prepared at this moment to determine whether I shall demur to some parts of this traverse. It strikes me as clearly demurrable, but in other parts of it it may be necessary for me to join issue. I don't feel inclined to complete my joinder either in demurrer or upon the issue to-day; and I shall ask the court for time to determine whether I demur or join issue.

THE CASE TO BE HURRIED TO THE HIGHER COURTS.

Mr. Field—I will make a suggestion which perhaps may meet the views of my learned friend. Bearing in mind the opinion expressed by your Honor the other day in respect to the writ to investigate the matter in this return, and bearing in mind also another suggestion which was made by you originally when you granted the first writ that the case should go to the General Term as soon as possible, and also bearing in mind that the General Term in this district is so constituted that it could not hear the case any way, perhaps in extended discussion here or at the General Term would be not very desirable. Of course we don't want a *pro forma* judgment anywhere; we could not have it under the law. If this suggestion would meet the views of the counsel I would make it, that is that we state the grounds, that we put in our proof if there is to be made—and it is easy enough to see what the proof should be on either side—that we put in our proof on the spot, that we state our objections and merely state them, that your Honor pass upon them, and then immediately have a certiorari returnable on the 23d of this month, when there is a Court of General Term, and when the court can—if there can be constituted a General Term competent to hear it—hear it, and we can then argue it. But we do desire very much to get the case to the Court of Appeals on the first Monday of January, and we hope that the learned counsel will not interpose any obstacle to our doing so.

THE PLANS OF TWEED'S COUNSEL.

There can be no proof except the record, which is here, and two or three other extraneous matters. We want to come in here afterward, and give evidence, for example, that the indictment before the Grand Jury was found in the complaint of Wheeler H. Peckham, and that it did not originate with the Grand Jury itself. Then we want to prove, moreover, that the record, as it now stands, has been altered from what it was originally, that is to say, the verdict of the jury as recorded in the minutes was one thing, and the record has been altered to state another thing. And we want to put in evidence the motion papers and the motion to correct it, which was denied. I believe that in all the proof we want, it being admitted that the year has expired and that the fine has been paid. These facts are all in. Then we will state our points, which are very much the points stated in our traverse. If you want time, of course we have nothing to say as to that, but, if you can dispose of the case in such a manner as to get it to the Court of Appeals in January, we should be under great obligations to you.

Mr. Phelps.—I have no desire to hinder any dispatch that may be sought to be made in the progress of this case anywhere. I simply say that I desire some little time now to make up my mind what course I shall take in regard to this traverse. I should prefer that my learned friend should not represent both sides of this case; and, while I am inclined to comply with his suggestion as far as I possibly can, I don't think, under the circumstances, it is out of place to ask for a delay of forty-eight hours to decide whether I shall demur or join issue in this traverse.

Mr. Comstock—Of course, if the public prosecutor asks for some time to examine the return to the traverse we cannot oppose ourselves to his request. That is a reasonable request, and we can make no opposition if such is his wish. We had hoped the case would be disposed of in a summary manner today, because the evidence can all be put in in the space of five minutes, undoubtedly; but if on the motion of the District Attorney it is put over to-day, I want to say to him my own preference would be that it would stand over until the first of next week.

A POSTPONEMENT TO TUESDAY NEXT AGREED UPON.

Mr. Phelps—That is agreeable to me.

Mr. Comstock—I have been waiting on this case, somewhat to my own personal inconvenience, all the week; but I am obliged to be home to-morrow and the next day.

The Court—I had not intended to sit after this week, but in view of Judge Comstock's desire to go home I shall be very happy to adjourn the court until Monday.

Mr. Phelps—Will Monday suit you, or Tuesday?

Mr. Comstock—It is a mere question of traveling in the night.

Mr. Field—If there is an understanding that a certiorari shall be returnable on the 23d, we have no objection.

Mr. Phelps—I shall not interpose the slightest obstacle.

Mr. Field—You will facilitate us?

Mr. Phelps—Certainly.

A QUESTION OF JURISDICTION.

Mr. Field—It strikes me that this matter cannot be entertained by the Oyer and Terminer, you sitting merely as a Judge of Oyer and Terminer. We will speak to that now or at any other time.

The Court—Now.

Mr. Field—It is immaterial to us how it is disposed of. There is no doubt it gives the Court of Oyer and Terminer jurisdiction to the writ of habeas corpus, (except the act of 1847,) and by the original statute, as you know, Sir, the power to issue the writ is given to the Supreme Court, and the Chancellor and the Justices of the Supreme Court, or any Judge authorized to perform the duties of a Judge of the Supreme Court. The Oyer and Terminer was not authorized to issue the writ at all. Now, then, came the statute of 1847, which declares that, after the Oyer and Terminer had commenced its sittings, no writ should be issued to take a prisoner who was charged with an offense out of the common jail, except it be returnable to the Oyer and Terminer or issued by it. Now, that seems to us hardly sufficient to give to the Oyer and Terminer jurisdiction originally; that the intent of the act was plainly that prisoner should not be taken into any other part of the county or State while the Oyer and Terminer was sitting, which could investigate their cases, and that the law really means no more than that the Judge holding the Oyer and Terminer should be the person receiving the writ or to grant it. It is immaterial, of course, which it should be, but we only make the suggestion. We submit, after an examination of the case, that the proper course is to have this proof before you as a Judge of the Supreme Court and a Judge of Oyer and Terminer, and not merely as a Judge of this court alone.

The Court—You shall have it in both capacities to make it certain.

Mr. Field—Then it stands over until Tuesday at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Phelps—That is agreeable to me.

THE CUSTODY OF THE PRISONER.

Mr. Field—In the meantime the relator is by judgment of law taken out of the custody of the Warden of the Penitentiary. He is now in the custody of the court. You may wish him to be retained by the Warden in the same condition in which he has been heretofore, but an order should be made to that effect, because he is no longer in the Penitentiary.

The Court—The usual order is simply to adjourn the proceedings and remand the prisoner.

Mr. Field—You cannot remand him; in the meantime he is to remain in the custody of the Warden.

Mr. Phelps—The ordinary form is to adjourn to such a day as you may agree upon, and the prisoner be remanded to the custody of the Warden from where he came.

Mr. Field said that the case was to be adjourned until Tuesday, and that Tweed was to remain in the custody of the Warden of the Penitentiary.

The court accordingly directed an adjournment of the proceedings to Tuesday at 11 o'clock, and committed Tweed to the custody of Warden Liscomb, of the Penitentiary, by whom he was removed from the court-room.

THE RETURN TO BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

At the conclusion of the proceedings in court, weed had another consultation with his counsel in the ante-room, and, after about ten minutes' delay, left the Court-house in company with Warden Liscomb, and entered a carriage in waiting at the Chambers street entrance. William M. Tweed, Jr., who followed, also entered the coach, and the party was driven off. The exit from the court-room had been managed with the view of allowing Tweed to leave without attracting the attention of the rather small gathering of spectators in the vicinity. The coach was driven through Centre and Broome streets to the Bowery, and thence along Third avenue to Sixty-first street, at the foot of which is the ferry to the Island. Here "the boss" bade his son farewell, and with Warden Liscomb entered a small boat, in which they were rowed across to the Penitentiary.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

ONE MILLION DOLLARS ASKED FOR THE EAST RIVER BRIDGE—NEW CALLS ON THE BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT, &C.

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held yesterday, President Flanagan in the Chair.

Alderman Gilon offered a resolution directing the Controller to issue bonds to the amount of $1,000,000, being an appropriation in equal sums for the years 1874 and 1875, to carry on the work of the Brooklyn bridge, as provided by an act of the Legislature. The resolution, involving an expenditure of money, was laid over under a rule of the board.

Resolutions were adopted requesting the Controller to draw his warrant for $50 for each of the persons employed as doorkeepers and messengers by the Board of County Canvassers, and $100 each for Messrs. Gumbleton, Ontwater, and Plum, who had charge of the clerical work.

The resolution submitted at a previous meeting, in favor of permitting the Hebrew Benevolent Orphan Society to sublet their premises—the property being owned by the City—was called up and laid over.

A report was presented by the Committee on Streets, adverse to the resolution of the Assistant Aldermen, providing for opening Tinton avenue in the Twenty-third Ward. It was placed on file.

The Clerk read a communication from Mr. Douglas Taylor, Commissioner of Jurors, stating that his offices in the new Court-house were not sufficient to accommodate his business, and requesting the board to authorize a lease to be taken of the second floor of the building No. 965 Broadway for ten years, at a rent of $4,500 per annum, the premises being suitable for the discharge of his duties. The matter was laid over.

Alderman Billings called up the resolution requesting the Board of Apportionment to appropriate the sum of $5,000 to the National Rifle Association, as provided for by an act of the Legislature.

Alderman Ottendorfer said that the new amendments to the Constitution prohibit appropriations to private companies and institutions.

Alderman Billings replied that if the appropriation was made before the 1st of January, 1875, the money would reach its destination. He agreed with his colleague that after that day no appropriation could be made by the Common Council to the association.

Alderman Gilon said the object was an excellent one, and he thought the appropriation should be made.

The resolution was then passed by a vote of 9 to 2.

President Flanagan submitted a resolution requesting the Board of Apportionment to set apart the sum of $3,000 to procure portraits of Ex-Gov. John T. Hoffman and Gov. Dix at $1,000 each, and of Ex-Mayor Hall and the late Mayor Havemeyer at $500 each, the portraits to be placed in the Governor's room.

Alderman Van Schaick desired to make an amendment. He said that it was proposed by several gentlemen in the Board to have a marble bust of the late Mayor made by the lady artist, Miss Sarah Griffin, and he suggested that the provision for a portrait be omitted.

The resolution, so amended, was adopted.

Alderman Van Schaick then moved that the Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to procure a marble bust of the late Mayor by Miss Sarah Griffin at a cost of $1,000. The motion was laid over.

No other business of importance was transacted.

JOHN KELLY'S LIBEL SUIT.

Argument was to have been heard in Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, on a motion in the libel suit of John Kelly against Nelson J. Waterbury, to strike out certain portions of the defendant's answer. The case was not reached on the calendar, however, and, in reply to an application of counsel to have the case called on, Judge Brady said he could not furnish counsel with springs to jump over other causes. The portions of Mr. Waterbury's answer which it is sought to strike out are those which relate to the reading of Mr. Waterbury's dispatch at the Syracuse Convention, the denial of the falsity of the telegram, the sustaining of Mr. Waterbury's political experience, and the esteem and confidence of the Democratic party which he so much desires; the publication of a letter by Kelly, in which defendant claims the facts of the late Mayor Havemeyer's statements are substantially admitted; that in consequence of plaintiff's frequent proclamations of his honesty he had come to be known as "Honest John Kelly," and that he (Kelly) and John Morrissey had usurped certain important public functions, and were dictating City and County nominations from the secret chambers of the Tammany Columbian Order. The motion, by direction of Judge Brady, was set down for argument on Tuesday next.

THE LARCENY OF LUTHER BRYANT'S TREASURES.

George alias "Rat" Reilly, who was indicted with Robert Murray alias "Bobby the Welshman," (convicted on Wednesday,) for burglary in the first degree, in having broken into the apartments of Luther Bryant, the wealthy old coin and postage-stamp dealer, at No. 1 Forsyth street, which contained gold and paper money and other treasures to the amount of $153,000, was placed on trial before General Sessions Judge Quackenbush, in the Court of Sessions, yesterday. By an arrangement between District Attorney Nolan and Mr. Spencer, counsel for the prisoner, the evidence in the case, which was similar to that given on Murra y's trial, and already published in THE TIMES, was read to the jury in the testimony of the witnesses. One of the prisoner's bundled umbrellas, identified by Bryant as his property, and a quantity of postage stamps were found in the possession of the prisoner. The case had not concluded when the court adjourned.

A NOTORIOUS CHARACTER ARRESTED.

John Bough, formerly proprietor of the saloon known as Olympic Hall, in West Sixteenth street, was arrested yesterday on a charge of forgery in the first degree. The indictment charges Bough with having forged a deed conveying certain property at One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street and Seventh avenue to Jacob and Susan M. Allison, of Haverstraw, on the 23d of April last, with intent to injure and defraud one Osmon Reed. Chief Clerk Clark, of the District Attorney's office, charges the prisoner with being implicated in the gigantic real estate frauds and forgeries of Sacia & Co. Bough was arrested by Pinkerton's detectives in New-Jersey, on a charge of forgery, and it will be remembered preferred a charge of kidnapping against the detectives, Bough was shortly after brought to this City on a requisition. On answer an old charge of burglary, having been jointly indicted with Henry Wiley alias "Shorts" and Wesley Allen. He was admitted to bail on this indictment, and was yesterday rearrested on the charge of forgery above alluded to. Bough was brought to the District Attorney's office, and bail was fixed at $10,000, in default of which the prisoner was committed to the Tombs.

THE OFFENDING LIQUOR-DEALERS.

Bench warrants having been issued from the District Attorney's Office for the arrest of those liquor-dealers who still refuse to take out licenses, a large number of the offending saloon-keepers were brought before District Attorney Rollins yesterday. The majority of the dealers expressed their readiness to take out licenses immediately, and were released on giving a guarantee that they would comply with the Excise law. Some ten or twelve, however, who assumed a defiant attitude, and announced their determination of opposing the law to the utmost, were committed to the Tombs. In the afternoon a number of the stubborn dealers changed their minds and announced their intention of complying with the law. These penitents were brought to the District Attorney's Office and released on $1,000 bail each. District Attorney Rollins will try a number of the excise cases in the Court of Oyer and Terminer to-day.

A PRODIGAL SON NOT APPRECIATED.

Catherine Hart resided at No. 312 Grand street with her son Abraham, of whose honesty she has had strong suspicions of late. On the 13th of December she went out, leaving her son, who is about twenty years of age, in charge of her rooms. When she came back he had disappeared, together with some $65 from a bureau drawer. He turned up yesterday morning very penitent, and begging for mercy for stealing the money, which he acknowledged spending in riotous living and drinking. The mother had no mercy, and believing that he is a bad boy, Justice Kilbreth, at Essex Market Police Court, yesterday held him in $1,000 bail for trial.

THE SCURRILOUS POSTAL CARD CASE.

The trial of Moses Chamberlain, indicted on a charge of sending scurrilous postal cards through the mails to Baron

NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

FINANCIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ARTISTIC TOPICS.

SEEK POLICY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND—THE CASE OF DR. COLENSO—THEATRICAL INDECENCIES, &c.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1874.

The Directors of the Bank of England when they make a change in the rate of discount usually do it on a Thursday; but yesterday, and on another recent occasion, they put up the rate on a Monday. Any increase is of course sure to be unpleasant to many people, but an increase on a Monday produces especial uneasiness and alarm, both because it is unusual and because it shows the urgency of the circumstances which have compelled the bank to act in this way. The movement of yesterday has therefore excited much anxiety, especially as there is every prospect that the rate of discount will have to be carried still higher before it secures the bank an adequate reserve. Yet there is nothing in this state of things but what might have been anticipated, and is capable of a very simple explanation. There has been a suspicion on the London Exchange that some great *coup* was in secret and mysterious operation, but in reality the causes of the present condition are evident enough, though it may be difficult to know how to deal with them. Germany wants gold for her own coinage; France wants gold in order to resume specie payments; and the continuous drain of bullion in both directions has necessarily produced a serious decline in the reserve of the Bank of England, which has not otherwise been replenished. The recent rise of the bank rate from four to five had only a momentary effect, and there was, therefore, no alternative but to raise it once more, and it will probably touch a much higher figure before the end of the year. It is impossible to say what the German demand will amount to, or when it will come upon the market; and this uncertainty naturally keeps every one uncomfortable. For the present the actual price of money has very little effect on English trade, simply because trade is in such a stagnant and depressed condition that only a comparatively small amount of money is required. Buyers are slackening or suspending their purchases, and sellers are chary of replenishing their stocks. The uncertainty as to the prices at which money will range during the next few weeks adds, of course, to the general paralysis of business; and there is also a good deal of alarm as to the sufficiency of the reserve of the Bank of England to withstand the sudden demands that may be made upon it. The reserve has lately not been more than some nine millions, though competent authorities hold that it ought to be at least twelve or thirteen millions, and it is now down to eight and one-half millions, with the prospect of before long, if matters remain as they are, sinking to seven. It should be remembered that this represents almost the whole of the reserve of all the banks in the country. The country banks send up their spare money to the London banks. The London banks use up this and all other money that reaches them as closely as possible, trusting to a small reserve in the hands of the Bank of England, and the bank also puts out its money, as far as it can, trusting that the other banks will be able to take care of themselves. To a large extent, therefore, the bank reserve is fictitious, since it constitutes the sole basis of the whole banking system of the country. Under these circumstances it is not, perhaps, surprising that the private banks should be thinking of some kind of co-operation among themselves. If this is not done a sudden and violent fluctuation may happen at any moment.

The notice from Archbishop Manning, (who has gone to Rome for a Cardinal's hat,) which was read on Sunday in the various Roman Catholic chapels in London, may, perhaps, be followed by some of the consequences which I suggested in my last letter. The notice, it will be observed, is cautiously worded, and appeals only to the consciences of the persons against whom it is directed. They are warned that if they do not believe in the infallibility of the Pope, they are deceiving the clergy by concealing their unbelief, and committing sacrilege in going to confession and communion. Nothing, however, is said about refusing admission to the services of the Church to unbelievers of this class, or even of challenging a distinct avowal of their opinions. If they choose, after this notice, still to refuse to accept the dogma, and yet at the same time continue to take advantage of the services of the Church, they are told that eternal damnation awaits them in the other world; but no temporal penalties are held out against them. This would seem to mean that if Lord Acton, Lord Camoys, and other Roman Catholics who repudiate infallibility go to confession or communion, it will be assumed that they thereby profess belief in the obnoxious dogma; no questions will be asked, and the responsibility of disavowing the profession thus taken for granted will be thrown upon themselves. Whether this warning will have any practical effect remains to be seen. Possibly the Roman Catholics in question will go on as before, waiting till some of the clergy have the courage to challenge them to conflict by refusing the privileges of the Church; and in that case there will, perhaps, be a very curious and interesting lawsuit, in which the pretensions of the Papacy will be submitted to the verdict of a British judge and jury. There can be little doubt, however, that this is a contingency of which Archbishop Manning is perfectly aware, and which he will take good care to avoid as long as he can.

THE CASE OF BISHOP COLENSO.

Bishop Mackarness, of Oxford, was foolish enough to inhibit Bishop Colenso, of Natal, from preaching in the parish church of Oxford on Sunday last, but the only result was, that Dr. Colenso's sermon was read by a friend instead of by himself; that Dr. Jowett, the head of Baliol College, threw open to him the chapel of the college, which is supposed to be beyond ecclesiastical authority, for an afternoon sermon; and that the Mayor and corporation also offered him the free use of any of the public buildings under their control, if he wished to preach in them. As we shall probably hear more of Bishop Colenso, it may be worth while to mention that he was consecrated in 1853, and published the first part of his book on the Pentateuch ten years afterward. Convocation condemned the book as "dangerous." The Archbishop of Canterbury cautioned his clergy against admitting Dr. Colenso to their pulpits, and the Bishop of Capetown passed a sentence of deposition upon his brother Bishop. In 1865 the Privy Council decided that the sentence of deposition was null and void, inasmuch as no coercive ecclesiastical jurisdiction could be established in any colony possessing an independent jurisdiction, and in the following year the Master of the Rolls gave a judgment in Dr. Colenso's favor in a suit which he had raised to compel the payment of his salary as Bishop. The legality of Bishop Colenso's position would, therefore seem to be impregnable, but his opponents though they are afraid to renew the contest with him in the courts of law, are not ashamed to persecute him indirectly by means of the right of the Bishop to license preachers within his diocese. Some years ago an attempt was made to starve Dr. Jowett himself out of his Greek professorship by keeping the salary at a nominal amount; but ultimately this miserable policy was abandoned, and Dr. Jowett is now head of Baliol.

THEATRICAL INDECENCIES.

It appears that more than one of the London theatres has got into disreputable hands, and is used for disreputable purposes. It has become a sort of fashion among a certain section of the aristocracy to take a theatre, or a share of a theatre, in order to secure a distinguished position for ladies of their acquaintance who aspire to the glories of theatrical management. It is easy to conceive the sort of entertainments which naturally finds favor with persons of this class and the kind of audiences to which they appeal. Like draws like, and birds of a feather flock together. In the beginning of the Queen's reign the theatres had become the scene of flaunting vice and impudent profligacy to such an extent that decent people did not visit them; and it was owing to her Majesty's influence that this pollution was gradually removed, at least as far as open and demonstrative indecorum was concerned. Unfortunately the Queen's withdrawal from public life has been followed by a partial revival of the evils against which she exerted herself so energetically. Several of the London theatres are now simply large taverns, with drinking bars all over the house, and in some cases smoking-rooms, too; and the managers lay themselves out to minister to the tastes of what are called the "fast" elements of society. The result is, as might be expected, a painful degradation in the character of the performances, and also a marked taint in the composition of the audiences. It is impossible to mistake the character of the majority of the occupants of the private boxes, even if their effrontery did not force it into notice. When Mr. Pigott, the dramatic censor, was recently appointed in succession to Mr. Downe, it was, I have heard, made a condition by the Queen, who still takes a deep interest in the matter, that he should not merely read the pieces submitted to him, but should visit the theatres, in order to judge from personal observation whether there was anything objectionable in the actual performance. The good effect of this has been some abridgement of the freedom of the notorious can can, but it is very difficult to lay down hard and fast rules as to the length of dresses and kicking up of legs, and the censor has a hard and rather hopeless struggle against the tendencies of the managers who are deliberately, and for commercial reasons, playing down to the *demi-monde*. A year or two since the Lord Chamberlain was directed by the Queen to do something about the scanty skirts of the stage, but it has been discovered that there are ways of wearing clothes by which a little capricious modesty may be made to do duty for a great deal of general exposure. Formerly the Queen refused to go to any theatre which did not conform with her ideas of propriety, but now she never goes at all, and the Prince of Wales goes to all theatres indiscriminately, but with a decided preference for the lowest. Even under the Second Empire it was considered compromising for a French lady to witness openly the loose farces of the Palais Royal, but the Prince at his last visit to Paris not only went himself but took the Princess with him, and allowed their names to figure in the papers. It is evident that if Mr. Pigott perseveres in his efforts to restore decency to the English stage he will have very hard work for some time to come. As an exception to the ordinary style of comic opera, the production of M. Lecoq's "Les Pres Saint Gervais" at the Criterion may be mentioned. It is an amusing story, cleverly acted to the accompaniment of very superior melody, and without any taint of vulgarity. Two idiotic burlesques of "Hamlet" have been brought out. One is a revival of an old piece by Poole, in which the *Prince* is made to dance an Irish jig, present a pair of garters to *Ophelia*, and fight a boxing match with *Laertes*, while the *Ghost* drinks porter out of a pewter pot. In the other almost the only joke is making the *Ghost* Shakespeare himself. The title of the piece is "Hamlet the Hysterical; a Delirium in Two Spasms."

Mr. Buckstone is writing an autobiography.

J. H. F.

YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL.

PROF. SEELYE'S LECTURES ON MISSIONS RESUMED—THE MILLENARIAN THEORY—REPUTATION—LECTURE ON TRAVEL IN INDIA—EARLY HISTORY AND PRESENT CONDITION.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NEW-HAVEN, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1874.

Prof. Julius H. Seelye's course of lectures before the Yale Divinity School, on missions, which was begun last week, and reports of which appeared in THE TIMES, was resumed to-day, and will be concluded this week. The subject of the lecture this afternoon was the "Millenarian Theory of Missions." Hitherto he considered the condition and the needs of the unchristian world, the failure of all the ordinary appliances of civilization, and the full adaptedness of Christianity to effect moral regeneration. But just here some minds encounter a difficulty. Some Christians disbelieve in the expediency of missions, because it is man's work, while conversion must be the work of God. It is argued that the strength of the Church is to sit still and wait, that we are not to hope for the evangelization of the world by multiplying Christian appliances, but that only by stupendous displays of Divine wrath will this result be attained. They would therefore abandon all missionary operations, and withdraw all human agencies. But the Scriptures do not warrant any such conclusions. It is clear from them that God is the effective agent in overcoming opposition to Himself. He alone can give a new heart, and bring order out of its chaos and desolation. The conversion of the world is the conversion of individual souls, and He alone is the efficient agent. Prophecy abounds in predictions of dire providences, but have not many of these already occurred in the history of the world? And these events have been powerful auxiliaries to the advancement of God's kingdom. More will doubtless occur in the future, and still further impulses will be given to God's cause. The Church has gained victories through darkness and sorrow, but it has been the power of truth which has precipitated the conflict. Preaching Christ's Gospel has brought out this opposition, but it has also been by the same means that it has been overcome. Preaching the Gospel, and the power of God attending it, have been the two agencies which have effected the progress of the Church throughout its history. The commission to the Apostles to preach was attended with the promise of Christ's presence and help—a living inspiration in their souls. Obedience to His commands is only opening deeper channels through which His blessing flows into the heart. Faith without works is dead. The Church gains strength, enlargement, and purity only as it associates with the Lord in seeking and saving the lost. The salvation of the Church is involved in the missionary cause. The increase of grace to ourselves comes from diffusing it to others. The failure of the Church in many parts to engage in evangelizing operations has resulted in spiritual apathy.

The work of missions is worth to the Church all that it has cost, although many noble souls have perished. Its love for souls has grown deeper, and Christian hearts have been closer knit together. The truest economy for a Church is the widest diffusion. The work at home is not diminished, but experience proves that the Church most active for others is itself most enriched spiritually. The evangelization of nations is not a hopeless undertaking, as the present condition and prospects of missions abundantly proves. It really began only about three-fourths of a century ago. It began in the face of much opposition. The mission band at Williams College were obliged to keep their organization secret, so strong was public sentiment against them. But, now, more than 1,600 missionaries have been sent out from different Christian nations, at a yearly expense of over $5,000,000. There are 1,500 Bible societies in different parts of the world, organized since 1804. These have issued more than 135,000,000 copies of the sacred word, and in various languages. Never, even in Apostolic times, has more energy been shown in the work, and never have there been such results in this history of the world. At the end of the first Christian century there were not half as many Christians on the globe as there now are in India, after less than 100 years of missionary work among them. The Church that idly waits for some millennial results, and puts forth no efforts of its own, has its eyes holden that it cannot see Christ, as was the case with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

In the evening Prof. Seelye gave an informal lecture on his observations in India. He spoke of the rare fascination which has always prevailed concerning this country. The Hindoos were not the original possessors of the soil. They came to India at about the time of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, or about 1500 B. C. For 1,000 years thereafter little is known concerning them. The aboriginal possessors of the country still find representatives in some tribes in different parts. About the fifth century B. C., Darius added India to his possessions. Since that time the country has been subdued by Greeks, Afghans, Persians, Tartars, &c., but the English are now masters of the land, and there is every indication that they intend to remain so. The fascination concerning this country is largely to be attributed to its wondrous wealth. Fabulous tales are told of its gold and silver and precious stones in times past. He spoke of the climate, the excessive warmth of the sun. In January the average temperature is 78°. There is great diversity among the people, in color, dress, language, &c. No less than twenty-two different languages are spoken in India. The differences of caste are far beyond what the books relate, and break up society to an extent we little realize. But the great diversity is kept in unity by British rule, otherwise anarchy would result. He spoke at some length of the effects of English conquest upon the condition and prospects of the people, the colleges established, &c., and answered several questions of interest which were propounded by students and professors.

MERCANTILE AFFAIRS.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WANTS TO AMEND THE ARBITRATION ACT—MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

An adjourned meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon, William E. Dodge presiding. Mr. Elliott F. Shepard, Chairman of the Special Committee on Amendments to the Arbitration Act, submitted the following report to the Chamber, with the appended memorial to the Legislature:

To the Chamber of Commerce:

The special committee to whom was referred, on the 3d inst., the proposed amendments to the Arbitration act, and the preparation of a memorial to the Legislature on the subject, respectfully report that they have had the matter under consideration, and have prepared the accompanying amendments to the act and memorial, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the amendments to the Arbitration act, together with the memorial on the subject, be and are hereby adopted as the sense of the Chamber, and that the officers be authorized to transmit an authenticated copy of the same, under date of Jan. 5, 1875, to the Excellency the Governor and to both Houses of the Legislature.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD,
JAMES W. ELWELL,
JOSEPH SELIGMAN,
Special Committee.

DEC. 17, 1874.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New-York in Senate and Assembly convened:

The memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New-York relating to arbitration.

Your memorialists respectfully represent to your honorable body that the act authorizing the arbitration of mercantile disputes in the Port of New-York, passed April 29, 1874, has been received with general favor by the mercantile and legal classes of this Metropolis, and has worked most successfully in its object of furnishing a means for the speedy and economical settlement of disputes on commercial questions.

As was anticipated by your memorialists at the time they asked for the passage of the law, its operation has suggested some amendments which will still further perfect it and make it an increasing public benefit. The amendments are now divided into sections corresponding with the work of the revisors, who have published in its corrected form among the Revised Statutes of the State their proposed revision and codification of this Arbitration act, and the amendments submitted herewith will be in entire harmony with the new revision.

Your memorialists, therefore, ask that these amendments may be passed into a law, and they will ever pray, &c.

Mr. Shepard stated briefly the principal points of the proposed amendments to the law, which consist of granting the privilege of an appeal from the decision of the arbitrator to the Court of Appeals, in cases where the amount involved exceeds $5,000, and a provision to enable the City of New-York to pay the salaries of the Arbitrator and his clerk. The Arbitration act fixes the salaries of these officials, but there was no provision made for their payment. It is understood that the Chamber was to provide the funds for this purpose, but they claim that it is a fair and legitimate charge on the public treasury. The Chamber is willing to provide court accommodation, stationery, &c., and all they ask is that the salaries of the officials be paid by the City. The report and memorial were adopted, and a copy of the latter was directed to be sent to the Legislature.

Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, Chairman of the committee of the Chamber forming the New-York Conference on Commercial Facilities, reported that the conference had prepared its fundamental rules. The Chamber agreed to the plan of organization as recommended by the conference, and which has already been published in THE TIMES. D. B. Bacock was appointed a member of the Conference Committee in room of Mr. A. A. Low, resigned. Some routine business having been transacted the meeting adjourned.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S.

The Governing Body of the Stock Exchange have decided to keep the Exchange open for business on Saturday, the 26th instant, and Saturday, the 2d of January. It will only be closed during the legal holidays—Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Cotton Exchange will not transact business on the Saturdays following Christmas and New Year's Day, and the Produce Exchange has resolved to suspend business on the Saturday succeeding Christmas Day, but has yet made no order respecting Saturday, the 2d of January.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLORS.

The eighth annual exhibition of this society will be opened in the galleries of the National Academy of Design on the first day of February, and will be continued until about the 1st of March. Pictures for the exhibition will be received from the 19th to the 23d of January, inclusive. Works of black and white having formed an attractive feature in previous exhibitions of the society, drawings on paper, wood or stone, in lead, crayon, chalk, charcoal, India ink, sepia, &c., are again solicited, as also the loan of important foreign water-color pictures not before publicly on view in this City. Artists out of the City are requested to send their lists in the cases with their pictures, to mark their cases "Water-Color Exhibition, National Academy of Design, Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue, New-York City," and to forward them so that they may arrive within the week closing on the 23d of January, after which no picture will be received, and at all times to be careful that the carriage is prepaid, as no unpaid boxes will be received. After the exhibition has closed here, it is probable that a large portion of the pictures will be placed on view in Brooklyn by the art association of that city.

THE TREMONT HOSPITAL.

On the 17th of June last, a petition was received by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, praying for the establishment of a receiving hospital in the village of Tremont. The document was signed by about fifty of the most prominent residents of the place. The Commissioners at once investigated the matter to ascertain whether the necessity for such a measure existed, and having arrived at an affirmative conclusion, adopted a resolution providing for the renting and furnishing of a building for that purpose, and authorizing the Warden of Bellevue Hospital to make all the necessary arrangements for opening it as a receiving hospital at the earliest possible date. Having done all this the Commissioners astutely came to the conclusion that it would be well to find out whether it lay within the scope of their powers to establish such an institution, and for that purpose applied to Mr. R. Delafield Smith, the Corporation Counsel. That gentleman at once instituted a thorough examination of the laws which define the powers of the Department of Charities and Correction, but was unable to find any provision authorizing such a proceeding on its part. In acquainting the Commissioners with this fact Mr. Smith recommended, if it was desirable, that there should be such a hospital, that application be made to the next Legislature for the right to establish it.

THE DOCK COMMISSIONERS.

The regular weekly meeting of the Dock Commissioners was held yesterday, President Westervelt in the chair and Commissioners Budd and Walts present. The Auditing Committee reported that they had examined all the bills and claims against the department, amounting in all to $41,790 45, and found the same to be correct. A communication was read from the Houston Street Ferry Company accepting the terms of their lease as fixed by the Commissioners at the last meeting of the Executive Committee. The report of the Engineer in Chief for the week stated that the work on the new Pier No. 1 North River, and on the Christopher street section was progressing as rapidly as the state of the weather would allow. After receiving and filing a large number of petitions, &c., the board went into executive session.

THE BROOKLYN CITY COURT CLERKSHIP.

The Chief Clerkship of the Brooklyn City Court, made vacant by the death of the late Stephen J. Colahan, is very much sought after by the small-fry politicians. The candidates for the office are legion. "Boss" McLaughlin, as usual, has a man whom he demands that Chief Justice Neilson and Judges McCue and Reynolds, the Associate Justices of the City Court, shall appoint. The Boss' man is William E. Robinson. Robinson was at the head of a political organization opposed to the regular Democracy until just before election, when at the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Convention he formally made his peace with the regulars, and in a long, rambling speech took back all the hard things he had ever said against the Boss. McLaughlin snubbed him at the time, but it appears the convert has been since fully received into the fold. It is understood that the Judges object to Robinson, and as McLaughlin insists on pushing his candidate there is every prospect of a Democratic row.

THE 'LONGSHOREMEN.

THE END OF A DISASTROUS STRIKE—THE MEN WILLING TO WORK AND THE MERCHANTS UNWILLING TO HIRE THEM—CONDITION OF AFFAIRS ON THE NORTH RIVER—ACTION OF THE TUESDAY NIGHT CONVENTION REPUDIATED BY UNION NO. 2.

Neither the most hopeful stevedore nor the most distrustful of the 'longshoremen could have possibly foreseen how disastrous to the latter would be the strike instituted by them some five weeks ago. For a day or two after the 'longshoremen stopped work it seemed possible that they would carry their point. In a fortnight the most they hoped for was a compromise, and when now, after the lapse of over a month, they resolve to go to work at the merchants' prices, they are suddenly and unexpectedly met with the answer, in a great many cases, that no union men are to be employed. The truth is that they were beaten from the beginning. Their trade is one that can be learned thoroughly in a week, and they struck at a time of the year when the city was full of mechanics, canal-boatmen, masons, stone-cutters, and others, who were glad to work at any wages. If the 'longshoremen had waited until spring they would have made a better fight, though they would probably have been beaten in any case. It will be remembered that on Tuesday a committee of the 'longshoremen was appointed to wait on the merchants, and endeavor to get forty cents per hour for day work and sixty cents per hour for night work, or, failing in that, to get thirty-five and fifty cents for corresponding grades of work; or, as a final resort, to see what terms could be made. It will also be remembered that after the merchants had replied that they would give thirty-five and forty cents, and would not even then employ union men, the convention of 'longshoremen passed an informal resolution authorizing the men to go to work anywhere at thirty cents per hour during the day and forty cents during the night. With a view of seeing what was the result of this action, a TIMES reporter yesterday visited a number of the docks on the North River. The universal rate was thirty cents per hour for day work and forty-five cents for night work where any was being done. That is what was called the "regular price." But there was a great difference as to the distinctions made in hiring men. By the Merchants' Line of steamers the rule of "first come first served" had been adopted, and the first men offering at the regular price were hired, whether they were union men or not. The Old Dominion Line is not hiring union men, and will not do so on any terms, unless they throw away their badge and forsake the union. At the Pacific Mail Company's dock no union men are employed. The Walsh Brothers are the stevedores for this line, and their foreman says that he would not consider it "honorable" to turn off the hands who have been working for over a month, and who are doing as well as anybody could, for the sake of taking back the strikers. He did not think the Walsh Brothers would do that, and although a few union men might be employed, they would not be hired in any large numbers. At the dock of the Empire Line a few union men were at work, who had offered themselves before the strike was formally dissolved. But no man who waited until that action was taken before offering to accept the company's terms will be taken. No steamer belonging to the Inman Line was at the Inman dock, and consequently no men of any kind were employed there; but as the Walsh Brothers are the stevedores of the line, it is safe to say that no union men will be employed when the expected steamer does arrive. At the Williams & Guion dock any men are hired who offer at the regular prices. At the dock of the United States and Brazil Steam-ship Company, for which the Walsh Brothers are stevedores, no union men are working and none will be employed. The same firm are the stevedores of the Great Southern Freight Line, and the state of affairs is consequently the same as at the dock of the United States and Brazil Steam-ship Company. The foreman of the 'longshoremen employed by the Walsh Brothers at this dock says that both society and non-society men offered at the same prices this morning, but he had received orders that no union men were to be employed, and consequently he hired none. He said that the new hands were absolutely better than the old ones.

With the intention of getting information directly from head-quarters, the reporter sought for one of the members of the firm of Walsh Brothers, and, late in the afternoon, found Mr. Robert Walsh. That gentleman was exceedingly polite and non-committal. He would be glad to give information, but how could he say what "the firm" of Walsh Brothers would do? He was then asked whether he would employ any man that offered to work at his rates, or whether he would discriminate against union men. Those were points which it seemed had not struck him before, and upon other similar points he had not made up his mind. He did say, however, that he "should be choice whom he put to work," and what that means can readily be discovered when interpreted in connection with the information given by his foremen, and reproduced above. The general status of the affair may be thus summarized: No man will be employed anywhere at 'longshoreman's work for more than thirty cents per hour for day work and forty-five cents per hour for night work, and in more than half the cases the old striking union men will not be employed on any terms.

MEETING OF UNION NO. 2.

A meeting of the 'longshoremen of Union No. 2 was held last evening in the school-house of St. James' Church, New Bowery, to receive the report of the delegates to the convention which on Tuesday night passed the resolution permitting the men to go to work at thirty cents per hour of day work, and forty cents per hour of night work. There were twenty-five of these delegates, and each of those who were present at the convention gave his report separately. Some were sorry to report that it was true that the convention had taken the action indicated, one or two had left the convention in disgust before the action was consummated, and others had staid away altogether. It was then moved that the reports be rejected, and that the action of the convention be declared illegal. The motion was carried unanimously. The ground of this action was that the delegates had no power to take any final action, but were to report to the appointing body, and to proceed as then directed, instead of which they passed a motion formally ending the strike. The meeting at which this was done was kept secret, so far as any public notice was concerned, and the members of No. 2 think that they were "sold out" by certain foremen of the Walsh Brothers, who had managed to be appointed delegates to the Tuesday night convention. The only other important business of the meeting was the passing of a motion that the members of Union No. 2 would hereafter work at forty cents per hour for both day and night work. This is the rate which was asked by members of the union when it was first established, and the reason no distinction is made between day and night work is, that the members of this union are occupied almost entirely on the East River sailing vessels, and so get very little night work to do. This union is by far the most powerful in the City, as it numbers some 2,600 members. Last night the opinion was very general among those present at the meeting that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the rates which they now have resolved to ask.

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF HALF-ORPHANS.

The Society for the Relief of Half-Orphans and Destitute Children in the City of New-York held its thirty-ninth annual meeting last evening, at the Institution, No. 67 West Tenth street. The Treasurer's report showed the receipts to be $23,558 57, the expenditures $22,379 54, leaving a balance of $1,179 03. A summary of the Secretary's report is as follows:

Number of children admitted	77
Number dismissed	81
Number given over to parents	70
Number at present	208
Number under care since Jan. 1	290
Number of deaths	1
Total number admitted since the organization	3,365

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: First Directress, Mrs. George D. Pheips; Second Directress, Mrs. William G. Bull; Secretary, Mrs. Daniel D. Lord; Treasurer, Mrs. John N. Bradley; Matron, Mrs. R. P. Hudson. Trustees—R. L. Stuart, M. K. Jesup, Charles Butler, J. N. Bradley, John W. Quincy, Daniel D. Lord, John Campbell, George Bliss, James H. Banker. Executive Committee—Mrs. Phelps, Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Jesup, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Lord, and Mrs. Sutherland. A Board of Managers, consisting of twenty-six members, was also chosen. During the meeting the children gave recitations, singing, &c., and addresses were made by Rev. Mr. Hamilton and Rev. William G. Walker.

A GUILTY MAN'S CONFESSION.

Rev. Dr. Richard Fisk, Jr., the Universalist clergyman of Grand Rapids, Mich., has written and caused to be published the following letter of confession:

TO THE PUBLIC: I frankly confess to the fearful sin of which I am charged, and will not be cowardly enough to lie or seek a palliation of my weakness and guilt. I can only crave the pity and compassion of the world I have offended, and the forgiveness which my sincere and profound repentance before God and man calls for. I have returned my letter of fellowship to the denomination I have so grievously stricken, and abandoned the profession which I have so deplorably shamed. May God and man pity and forgive me, and aid me to do some humble work in life yet for the good of society. I am not a coward or a sneak to make Adam's plea that "a woman did it." It was my own weak and unguarded soul that, in a moment of frenzy, wrought my downfall. In penitence and unutterable sorrow,

R. FISK, Jr.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE—DEC. 17.

SALES BEFORE THE CALL—10 A. M.

$5,000 Un. Pac. 1st..	92¼	300	North-western	b3	47
1200 Western Union	82¾	200	do	b6.	47
200 do	b3. 82¾	100	do	c.	46⅞
400 do	s3. 82¾	300	do		46⅞
1100 do	82⅝	200	do		46⅞
100 do	82¾	60	do		46⅞
200 N. Y. C. & Hud.	s3. 100¾	100	do	b3.	46⅞
400 do	c. 100¾	100	Union Pacific	b3.	33⅝
200 Erie Railway	27⅝	400	do	s3.	33¾
600 do	27⅝	600	do		33¾
400 do	b3. 27⅞	400	St. Paul		38
400 do	27⅝	300	do		38
1000 Pacific Mail	39¾	200	do	b3.	38¾
100 do	b3. 39¾	200	Tol. & Wab		29
1100 do	39¾	100	do		28⅞
700 do	39¾	600	do		28⅞
200 do	s60. 39¾	200	do	s60.	28⅞
300 do	39¾	900	do		28⅞
1000 do	s60. 39¾	400	do		28¾
1500 do	39¾	200	do	s3.	28¾
200 do	b3. 39¾	15	do		29
400 do	s3. 39¾	800	do		28⅞
500 Lake Shore	79¾	100	do	s3.	28⅞
5 do	79¾	400	Ohio & Miss		31
100 Rock Island	101½	200	do		30⅞
100 do	101⅝	400	do		30¾

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—10:15 AND 11:30 A. M.

$5,000 U. S. 6s '81, C.	120¾	$60,000 U. S. 5-20 R.	
8,000 U. S. 6s, '81, R.	120¾	'67	b. c. 116⅞
R.	12 116⅞	3,000 U. S. 5-20 C.	
3,000 U. S. 5-20 C.		'68	b. c. 120¼
'64	12 115⅛	20,000 U. S. 6s, '81	
20,000 U. S. 5-20 C.		'65, N.	b. c. 119¼

FIRST BOARD—10:30 A. M.

$1,000 Ga. 7s G. Bs.	s3. 78	2600	Union Pac.	b. c.	35⅜
1,000 Tenn. 6s, N. S.	58½	200	do	b3.	35⅝
5,000 Tenn. 6s, o. x c.	58½	700	do	s3.	35¼
5,000 Tenn. 6s, n. x c.	58¾	300	Erie	b. c.	27⅛
4,000 C. & N. W.		800	do	b3.	27⅝
C. G. Bonds.	92	100	do		27⅝
1,000 do	92¼	100	do		27¾
9,000 do	b3. 92⅜	300	do	s3.	27½
9,000 L. & M. 1st. b. c.	87	100	do	bd.	27⅝
4,000 Mor. & Es. 2d.	103	100	Mich. Cen.	b. c.	80⅞
4,000 M. & E. 7s, '71.	100	1700	L. S. & M. S. b. c.	s3.	80⅛
6,000 Erie 4th	97¼	10	do		80
2,000 Mich. Cen. 7s.	101¼	500	do		80⅛
3,000 do	101⅜	500	do	b3.	80⅜
2,000 Mich. Sc. 2d.	100	300	do	s3.	80⅜
7,000 Buf. & Erie, N.	99	100	Panama	b. c.	116
20,000 Har. 1st, 7s, R.	108	600	Del., L. & W.	b. c.	108
1,000 North Mo. 1st.	86⅝	60	do		108¼
10,000 C. P. 1st S. F.	83¾	400	do		108
6,000 U. Pacific 1st.	92¼	10	do		108¼
9,000 P. 7s, L. G.	89	1000	do		108
7,000 U. Pacific S. F.	77½	10	do		108⅛
19,000 P. R. of Mo. 1st.	90¾	100	N. J. Cen.	b. c.	107½
3,000 Tol. & W. 1st.	87	200	C. & N. W.	b. s3.	46¼
10,000 T. & W. 1st, C.		1000	do	s3.	46¾
C.	s80. 47½	100	do	s3.	46⅝
1,000 O. & M. Con.	98	600	do	s3.	46¾
10 Fourth Nat. Bk.	99¾	100	do	s3.	46⅝
10 Phœnix Bk.	s. d. 99	400	do		46⅝
10 Grocers' Bank	99	300	do	s3.	46⅝
10 Del. & H. Can.	b. c. 115⅜	500	do		46¾
500 W. U. Tel.	b. c. 82¾	100	do		46⅝
1100 do	82¾	200	do	s3.	46⅝
300 do	82¾	200	do	s3.	46¾
400 do	b3. 82¾	1000	C., M. & St. P.	b. c.	38¼
150 Adams Ex.	b. c. 115½	300	do	s60.	38¼
50 U. S. Ex.	b. c. 64½	600	do		38
250 N. Y. C. & H.	b. c. 100¾	300	do		38
200 W. U. Tel.	b3. 82¾	400	C., M. & St. P. Pf.		57
100 C. & R. I.	b. c. 101⅝	15	St. L., I. M. & S.		27
100 do	c. 101⅞	10	Mor. & Es.	b. c.	96½
100 do	s3. 101⅝	A. & Pac. Pf.	b. c.	19¼	
100 do	101⅝	35	T., W. & W.	b. c.	29
100 Pacific Mail	b. c. 39¾	700	do		28⅝
100 do	s60. 39¾	200	do		28⅝
100 do	39¾	200	do		28⅝
900 do	39¾	100	do	s60.	28
400 do	s3. 39¾	500	do	b3.	28⅝
1900 do	s60. 39¾	100	do	s60.	28⅝
500 do	39¾	200	do	s3.	28⅝
1600 do	39¾	600	do	s3.	28⅝
300 do	s60. 39¾	800	do		28½
300 do	39¾	100	do		28¾
500 do	39¾	200	do	c.	28¾
1300 do	39¾	300	do		28⅝
1000 do	39¾	300	do	b3.	28⅝

SALES BEFORE THE CALL—12:30 P. M.

100 Quicksilver	s3. 34½	400	North-west	b3.	46⅝
500 West. Union	s3. 82¼	400	do	s3.	46⅝
400 do	b3. 82¾	100	N. J. Cen.	b3.	107⅝
400 Pacific Mail	b3. 39⅞	500	Tol. & Wabash		28¾
200 do	s60. 39⅝	500	do	s3.	28½
600 do	39⅞	100	do	s3.	28⅝
100 N. Y. C. & Hud	100¾	200	do		28¾
200 Lake Shore	s3. 80¼	100	do	s5.	28⅝
400 do	80¼	100	Del., Lack. & W.		108
100 Mich Cen	s70. 80⅝	100	Ft. Wayne		93
100 Union Pacific	35⅛	500	Ohio & Miss.	b3.	30⅝
200 do	35⅞				

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—2 P. M.

$10,000 U. S. 5-20 C., '64	115⅛	$18,000 U. S. 5-20 C., '67	120½
5,000 U. S. 5s, R., '81	116⅛		

SECOND BOARD—1 P. M.

$2,000 C. Pac. Gold B.	95⅞	100	Chic., Mil. & St. Paul	b. c.	38
1,000 U. Pac. S. F.	77⅝	200	do		37⅝
1,000 N. J. C. 1st C.	102¾	200	do		37⅝
1,000 do	102¾	100	Mich. Cen.		81
1,000 M. So. S. F. B.	104¾	400	L. S. & M. S.	b. c. s3.	80

The New York Times.

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1874.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BARNUM'S ROMAN HIPPODROME.—Equestrianism Athletics—Menagerie—Museum—Open afternoon and evening.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.—London Assurance—Mr. Charles Fisher, Mr. D. H. Harkins, Miss Fanny Davenport.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—Love's Sacrifice—Mr. Rankin, Mr. C. R. Thorne, Jr., Miss Rose Eytinge.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.—The Hero of the Hour—Mr. H. Stuart, Mr. C. B. Bishop, Miss Lillie Eldridge, Miss Mary Wells.

PARK THEATRE.—The Gilded Age—Mr. John T. Raymond, Miss Gertrude Kellogg.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.—The Shaughraun.—Mr. J. H. Montague, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Miss Ada Dyas.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.—Black Crook—Miss Emma Weatherby, Miss A. K. Bowler, Kiraify Sisters.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Vaudeville and Variety Entertainment.

LYCEUM THEATRE—Chilperic—(Opera Bouffe)—Miss Emily Soldene.

WOOD'S MUSEUM.—Dramatic Performance afternoon and evening. Curiosities.

ROBINSON HALL.—Personations and Songs by Mr. Frederic Maccabe.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.—Variety Entertainment.

BOWERY THEATRE.—Bertha, the Sewing Girl—Swiss Cottage.

BRYANT'S OPERA-HOUSE.—Minstrelsy—Negro Delineations, &c.—Mr. Bryant, Mr. Seymour.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.—Minstrelsy and Negro Comicalities—Messrs. Birch, Wambold, and Backus.

MASONIC HALL.—Ladies' Fair of the "Union Relief Association."

ST. PETER'S HALL.—Mrs. Jarley's Wax-works.

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THE UP-TOWN OFFICE OF THE TIMES.

A new branch office of The Times *has been established at No. 1,257 Broadway, between Thirty-first and Thirty-second streets, for the convenience of our up-town patrons, and is open daily, Sundays included, from 4 A. M. to 9 P. M. Advertisements and subscriptions received, and copies of* The Times *for sale. Dealers supplied at 4 A. M.*

THE TIMES FREE OF POSTAGE.

We beg to state that Postage will be paid at this office, free, on all Editions of The Times *sent to Subscribers in the United States, under the new Law to take effect on the 1st of January,* 1875.

Amid all the technicalities in which the discussion of Tweed's case is becoming involved, the main points of interest to the public are these: The proceedings now being taken in the lower courts are simply preparatory to having the question of whether Tweed is legally detained in the Penitentiary settled by the Court of Appeals. An attempt is to be made to have the appeal presented to the court of last resort early in January, and counsel on both sides are working together to have the matter thus finally disposed of. It will not be many weeks, therefore, before Tweed is either relegated to spend probably the remainder of his life in the Penitentiary or is once more at liberty. Meanwhile he is, technically, in the custody of the Court of Oyer and Terminer.

One formality in legal proceedings required that there should be an inquest on the bodies of the burglars killed at Bay Ridge. The testimony has been brief, to the point, and quite dramatic. The verdict is what might have been expected. The jury find that the killing of the burglars was perfectly justifiable, and the persons who shot them are commended for the courageous manner in which, under trying circumstances, they defended their lives and property. This concludes one phase of the remarkable case, and public opinion will ratify the verdict of the coroner's jury as thoroughly just.

According to a dispatch to the *Evening Post*, the Pacific Mail Company never paid any money "to secure the passage of the Subsidy bill," but allowed Irwin to draw $750,000, so that he and Stockwell might "cover up stock speculations." If the truth comes out, it is added, "it will not hurt" the company, but merely show that "Irwin is in the employ of the opposition line." This must be very consoling to the shareholders. What has an opposition line to do with Irwin receiving a check for $750,000? There was no opposition in existence at that time. And does it make the case better to represent that the money was paid for the purpose of allowing Stockwell, then the President of the Company, to pay his losses in Wall street? It is an ugly business altogether, and the explanations which are offered on behalf of the company only serve to make it worse. It seems a very difficult thing in the present age to get a company of this kind honestly managed.

The prayers which are offered up in the Senate and the House are not the least remarkable part of the daily history of Congress. The Chaplain of the Senate recently prayed that the "candle of the Lord" might light Senators along their devious ways this session. It is a wonder that he did not say the kerosene lamp at once. Still more recently he prayed for "the press," which we must say stands sadly in need of his kind attentions. Yesterday the same Chaplain seems to have broken out into a sort of pious frenzy about woman. The reporters, whose nerves are easily startled by a prayer of any kind, evidently did not know what to make of this, and so they took a note of it. The Chaplain appears to have offered up an ecstatic thanksgiving for lovely woman, though why he should have thought of it so suddenly does not appear. We may suggest to the reverend gentleman that he should now adopt the custom of some rural preachers and pray for his congregation, the Senate, one after the other. As his chief object must be to do good, we advise him to begin at home, and try his hand on some of the Senators who think that the "candle" of which he spoke the other day is lit expressly to show them the way to inflation.

From New-Orleans comes news of warlike demeanor on the part of the students in the boys' Central High School in that city, who yesterday went in a body to the girls' Lower High School, and notified the teachers there that they must expel all colored girls from the building. These youthful gallants, who have so admirably seized upon and illustrated the tactics of their seniors enrolled in the "White League," also informed the teachers, through a committee of five, that if their demand was refused, they were prepared to use force. Upon this the trembling pedagogues forthwith expelled all colored girls from the school, and the Lilliputian warriors retired. A riot in the streets, near the girls' school, ensued between the whites and blacks, however, and many persons were injured. We may now look for another "statement" to the people of the country, and for a mass of documents before which the long recital of the troubles over the "Returning Board" will pale in interest. That last-mentioned body, by the way, is still proceeding timorously, anxious to avoid giving offense to either party; but declares, as the result of its canvassing thus far, that there will be thirty-three Republicans and thirty-seven Conservatives in the State House of Representatives.

Prince Bismarck appears somewhat nettled at the proposition of the Reichstag to so amend the Constitution that a Deputy, during the sessions of the Parliament, shall have immunity from arrest, and seems to consider it almost equivalent to a declaration of a want of confidence. Rumors of the great Chancellor's resignation were rife in Berlin yesterday, and their probability was somewhat strengthened by the announcement that Bismarck has held an interview with the Emperor. But there is apparently little danger that the resignation would be accepted if offered, or that the Reichstag will force Prince Bismarck to leave a position in which he is doing such signal service. It is announced that the proposition, which evidently excited the Chancellor's resentment, will perhaps be modified.

The Mississippi Legislature met in extra session yesterday, to consider the subject of the recent troubles in Vicksburg. Gov. Ames has addressed a communication to the legislators, in which he denounces the deposition of the Sheriff, Crosby, and the other officials of Warren County, as well as the slaughter of the negroes near Vicksburg, but does not recommend any definite measures for reinstating the county officials. Our special correspondent's dispatch, published this morning, indicates that the President will be asked to send troops into the State, and that there the matter will be dropped. The negro Sheriff, Crosby, has been released from jail, and has made all speed to get out of the neighborhood of Vicksburg.

THE "RIGHT" OF SUFFRAGE.

It will doubtless be a little amusing to our readers, in looking over the debate had yesterday in the Senate on the District of Columbia Government, to see Mr. Morton, a Republican of the straitest sect, advocating universal suffrage, and Messrs. Bayard and Thurman, rival leaders of the Democracy, opposing it. While Mr. Cox was denouncing "bureaucracy" in the House with his accustomed eloquence and rashness, the chief Democrats in the Senate were declaring their willingness to repose all the interests of the people of Washington in the hands of a bureau, appointed by the President, and confirmed by a Republican Senate. In this connection, Mr. Bayard avowed the mysterious doctrine that the question of suffrage should "be left where the framers of the Constitution intended it to be, in the hands of those to be affected by the right." The framers of the Constitution have from time to time been made responsible by Democratic oracles for some very curious and absurd propositions; but this, we think, is worse nonsense than anything we have yet seen. We doubt if Mr. Bayard himself could tell, in cool blood, exactly what he meant by it. What he was undoubtedly trying to do was to reconcile the notion of the suffrage as something which should be equally enjoyed by all, with the exclusion of the blacks from voting. But it would be hard to show that the negroes in the District of Columbia are not "affected" by the results of the suffrage. It determines for them, as much as for the whites, the administration of the schools, the burden of rents as affected by taxation, the administration of justice, and a hundred other interests. They may not have the same, or even as much, interest as the whites; but Mr. Bayard's idea seems to be that they have none; that they are not, in short, any part of "the people." This is the latest development of Democratic "principles," and it is of a piece in its illogical, inconsistent patching together of incongruous ideas with what has gone before it in the same line. We must say that it was a little cowardly in Mr. Bayard to try and put his remarkable invention off on the shoulders of the framers of the Constitution. Whether these much-quoted and much-abused gentlemen were right or wrong, they were at least reasonably consistent as far as they went, and when they found themselves unable to apply the principles of the Declaration of Independence to this matter, they very discreetly let it as nearly alone as they could. They certainly never indorsed, directly or indirectly, such an amazing proposition as the fiery young Senator from Delaware has seen fit to put forward.

The District of Columbia matter, we may add, does not seem to us to call for any discussion of the abstract right of suffrage. The District is placed by the Constitution absolutely under the control of Congress. It is proper that this control should be retained by Congress, because the interests of the nation are far greater in the District than all others put together. A great part of the property is owned by the Government, and the whole place, outside of the public offices, has grown up as an adjunct to the Government. Congress is unquestionably bound to give to the inhabitants of the District the same advantages as are given to those of other cities, the same protection to property and person, the same care of the public health, the same convenience in the use of highways, the same enjoyment of public schools, and so on. And, on the other hand, it is but right that, toward the cost of these advantages, the property-owners of the District should contribute as much as in other cities falls on those similarly situated. But, in the main, the National Government should administer the affairs of the District, with such aid as it can judiciously call in from the inhabitants, and should bear a large share of the expense of the District Government. There is something pitifully small in the wrangling that has gone on for years in Congress over the question how far the rights and duties of the Government of the United States in the District should be placed at the disposition of the District voters. There is little sense and no dignity in the position into which the extreme theorists would force the Government in this matter. In dealing with the District it should never be lost sight of that the chief party in interest is the people of the entire country. It is represented in Washington by Congress and the President, and there is no more sense in these representatives abdicating in favor of the chance residents of the District than there would be in a man's turning over the management of his estate to whomsoever happened to furnish him with board and lodging. To give board and lodging to the National Government, or, as employes of that Government, to board and lodge temporarily in Washington, is what the people of Washington go to that city for. When we have deducted from the total population all who live directly from the Government, and all who live from these, we shall find very few left. The administration of the affairs of the District is largely a national matter, and should be so treated.

RAPID TRANSIT.

About this time look out for the yearly outcry on the subject of quick transit for the people of New-York. Neither age nor familiarity causes the theme to grow stale; repeated failures cannot daunt the hopeful souls who cry for conveyance between the City Hall and Harlem River in half an hour, and who think that all which is necessary to make it an accomplished fact is to cry loud enough. These people thought they had got it when the magnificent arcade scheme came out, under the indorsement of distinguished capitalists, and with the full approval and co-operation of the all-powerful Ring. When that vision melted into thin air, Commodore Vanderbilt came to the rescue, and did really spend money in making surveys, and in finding out what had been accomplished in London by the much-vaunted metropolitan underground system. But the prospective damages to be paid to property-owners are too heavy, the capital seeking such investment too slender, and the probable returns too light to tempt the shrewd Railway King into any such venture. So the matter dropped, and the people who had invested numerous dimes in exploring the wonderful section of road which had actually been completed for the space of one block under Broadway, turned to the Beach Pneumatic Company as the forlorn hope of rapid transit. But as that subterranean concern remained as stationary as the national monument, it became the turn of the elevated projects to engage public attention. Even Speer's traveling sidewalk secured a temporary notoriety, but Dr. Gilbert's plan overshadowed, for a while, all the others, as there really seemed a probability that after much legislation, numerous appointments of Commissioners to map out the route, and many confident promises about coming capital, that the thing was really coming at last.

The blighting influence of the panic took the bloom off even the Gilbert elevated scheme, and the scramble of last session for a loan of the City credit gave evidence of the hopelessness of inducing private investors to furnish the people with quick transit just at present. Stripped of its claim upon the local treasury, Mr. Eastman's brilliant scheme of last session was a predestined failure. Deprived of the privilege of occupying large slices of public squares for depots, the Vanderbilt and Third Avenue Company's projects were no longer worth fighting for. Meanwhile one rather shaky concern had actually covered the distance between the Battery and Thirtieth street. Abandoned by its first projectors the despised Ninth avenue road had been bought up for a song, and after a brave struggle against public diffidence, had been successfully demonstrated to be secure and reasonably rapid. So, while the big corporations were fighting over routes and charters, the Ninth Avenue Company had actually, without the aid of a cent of public money, made their experiment pay, and stepped to the front as the only successful bidder for the suffrages of the friends of quick transit.

As the matter stands, our prospects of traversing the island without the aid of the street cars are, briefly, these: The New-York Elevated Railroad Company retain the right to extend their tracks into Westchester County. The privilege of extending them along various cross streets, applied for last session, has not been granted. The Gilbert Elevated Railroad Company have been allowed two years from April 28, 1874, to construct their road, following for the most part the line of Sixth avenue as far as Forty-second street; six months longer to construct it to Fifty-ninth street, a year later to Eighty-sixth street, and another six months in which to continue the road to the Harlem River. Sureties for the payment of $100,000 to the City Treasury have to be found, that amount being forfeited should the work not be completed within six months of the specified time. The Beach Pneumatic Company has been rechristened the Broadway Underground, and has also been required to find sureties in $100,000 for the completion of the first section of its road, between the Battery and Forty-second street within three years from May 20, 1874.

The prospect of seeing any or all of these schemes carried out depends mainly on a probable revival from the present period of financial depression and uncertainty. Capitalists are not ready to engage in such enterprises at present, and though the prices of materials have all but touched their minimum, and the cost of labor is rapidly getting lower, prudent projectors are apt to hesitate before contracting for expensive works during a period of diminishing values. The obstacle to the carrying out of these schemes presented by the constitutional amendments is not a very formidable one. They are unquestionably "street railroads," and as such can be stopped by the objection of the owners of half in value of the property along the line of the route. But these objections can be overruled by the opinion of Commissioners appointed by the General Term of the Supreme Court, with a view to ascertain the public necessity for the construction of the road. There only remains the question of capital, and till that is forthcoming for existing schemes, it is as idle to call upon the Legislature to furnish fresh charters for quick transit railroads as it is to call upon them to build the roads themselves.

REFORM RATHER THAN PUNISHMENT.

One of the evidences of the civilization of a country is the effort made to redeem the young from the consequences either of their own wrong-doing, or the wrong-doing of others. The conviction is strong in all modern society, that the children of the criminal and destitute classes ought not to be made to suffer for their violations of law, in the same manner with older offenders. Few can estimate how much their evil courses have been influenced by others, and by circumstances over which they have had no control. Then it is clearly seen, in regard to young offenders, that mere penalty, without means of reform, is a damage to society itself. The criminal youth is of that age in which a series of good influences may send him forth from a penal institution, a useful member of the community. He will become at once an honest citizen and an industrious producer. Whereas the old-fashioned jail, or the ordinary prison, may only turn him out, as so often has been the case in Europe, a companion of thieves, a pupil educated in crime, and in general, a much worse offender than when he was sentenced.

Fortunately, in the United States, our legislators and law-reformers early saw the indispensable necessity of reforming the youth as well as of punishing him. The leader in the great science of penal reform, as well as of all movements for improving juvenile criminals, was an eminent jurist of this State who has become so well known throughout the civilized world by his great work on the *System of Penal Law*—Edward Livingston.

This distinguished jurist first struck upon the idea of the present "Irish" or "Crofton" Prison system, fifty years in advance of the progress of his times. His theories, too, embraced the formation of the present reformatories or houses of refuge for youthful offenders, in place of the prisons, formerly in use for such criminals. The ideas which seemed to so many minds of that day chimerical and foolishly philanthropic have now become adopted throughout the civilized world. A glance at the recent report of the National Prison Congress will show how widely they are recognized in this country. Throughout the United States, there are thirty-four reformatories for youthful criminals. They bring under their improving influences during the year an average number of 8,924 youth, of whom 1,481 are girls and 7,443 boys. Since their opening they have had under their charge 77,678 boys and 13,724 girls.

Of this great multitude (91,402) it is believed, from careful estimates, that 70,000 have been restored to society, useful, honest, and industrious workers. When we think of the immense damage to property, public morality, and all our best interests, those 70,000 young criminals would have occasioned, we can appreciate what a useful and profound work these humble reformatories are engaged in performing.

The expense of this work of reform, it is true, was large—amounting, for 1873, to $1,358,886, or about $152 per annum for each inmate. The whole number of persons engaged in converting this army of young criminals into good citizens was 771. It is satisfactory that these benevolent institutions have permanent properties, and a solid financial basis in the community. Each reformatory averages 181 acres as its landed estate. The buildings and lands of all the institutions are estimated to be worth $7,060,315, while the personal property is valued at $549,390.

By far the largest and most expensive institution of this kind is the Roman Catholic Protectory of New-York. The total number of inmates of this reformatory during 1873 were 1,629, and its expenses $215,028, which is nearly all paid by a tax on this County. The next largest is the New-York House of Refuge with 617 inmates, and an annual expense of $94,787. The largest returns from the labor of the inmates is at the New-York and the Pennsylvania Houses of Refuge, or $63 per capita. The highest cost per capita is shown by the Maryland House of Reformation, or $277 for each inmate; the lowest is that of the California and Vermont houses, or $111 per capita. The percentage of cases reformed is usually about 70 to 75 per cent., and as low as 33 in the Louisiana House of Refuge. The New-York Juvenile Asylum and the Vermont Reform School return 90 per cent. This is about the average of the famous Mettray colony in France.

So large a labor of reform and beneficence speaks highly for the humanity and civilization of the country. These institutions will undoubtedly increase in the new States, and the time will come when to imprison a boy or girl in a county jail or prison for adults will be thought as foolish as for the State to found seminaries of crime. Reform will be universally held to be the cheapest and most reasonable, as it is certainly the most humane, method of dealing with youthful crime.

SHOW PLAYS.

The occasional revival of those now somewhat time-worn glories of the stage, the spectacles whose central ideas and scenery were largely copied from the Paris theatre, and which, years ago, threw New-York into so much delight, suggests a variety of reflections on the popular taste. At certain epochs the public seems suddenly to become possessed with a mania for the romantic and spectacular, and to turn a cold shoulder upon the wit and grace of classic comedy. Then it welcomes the resuscitation of such a melange as the "Black Crook" as heartily as the French of Louis XI.'s time greeted the "Mystery Play;" its tastes seem a trifle barbaric; it expects splendor and dazzling effects of costume, changing lights, unreal goblins, and fantastic shades. Perhaps this craving after fairy and grotesque spectacles is most marked when every one is depressed by dull times, or agitated by anxieties consequent on panics and "transition periods;" when, in short, people do not care to see the troubles, vexations, and follies of real life exhibited before them upon the stage. Of course, large numbers of people refrain from attending spectacles because there are so few which are thoroughly artistic, and so many which repel by the coarse, bungling manner in which they are put together. The spectacular mania would have a brief rage every year if more talent were expended in the literary construction of the spectacles presented, and if it did not appear to be a cardinal principal with the producers of such pieces in general to ignore anything like wit or brilliancy in dialogue, and to depend entirely upon Amazonian marches, fiery demons, and variegated ballets for success.

It is strange that the American mind, with its predilection for the grotesque, and its capacity for investing the most prosaic surroundings with a kind of grim romance, should not now and then have devoted itself to the construction of some native pantomime or indigenous spectacle—something really savoring of the soil, and marking a departure from the old and worn acrobatic and semi-nude pieces which still come relentlessly round upon us at stated intervals. There are a hundred subjects in our history, and ten thousand things in our social and political life, which might serve to give lustre to such entertainments, yet they are never drawn upon. Indeed, sometimes, when a French "spectacle" is adapted for the American stage, the very things which gave it any value, its unity and its coherence, are lost sight of under mountains of twaddle, and a crushing weight of "variety business," calculated only to produce a severe fit of cerebral indigestion. This is a great error, because it is a catering merely for the masses, and not for people of taste and discernment, who like fun quite as much as any other class of persons, but who, of course, have little respect for nonsense. Many managers, in producing a spectacle, so overload it that its artistic effect is entirely destroyed, and so that, if the audience honestly expressed its sentiments, it would fly from the surfeit ere the series of five crowded acts were half over. A little care and tact in getting new, brisk, and sensational "spectacles" yearly, on the part of those who direct our principal theatres, would result in a rich harvest for them. The spectacle should not be a hodge-podge musically, or in a literary sense; should not drag its slow length along until a late hour; and it should have that airy grace and refinement which are necessary in the amusements of an intelligent race. If we are to return regularly to the spectacular, let us have a succession of novelties instead of eternal sameness, and let us have something besides "ten cent literature" in them.

Paris, in the absence of anything at once especially new and pure in the line of comedy or tragedy, has returned to the "spectacle," and the sprightly narrative of the journey around the world in eighty days, as told by that lively romancer, M. Verne, has been made the basis of many fascinating stage tableaux, in which, besides much splendor of light and music, there are some elephants, East Indian architecture, a fight on the plains of the "Far West," &c. It is, doubtless, well done, and will probably make its way hither. But we begin to weary of this borrowing. Is there no one who is not too busy, and who has the necessary talent to construct a good spectacle, in which the ballet shall not be the chief attraction, and which shall have good and sufficient local reasons for amusing us? Pray do not all speak at once.

A NATIONAL ART GALLERY.

The miniature mountains of stone and the acres of canvas, which make up our national gallery of statues and pictures at Washington, will doubtless receive some remarkable additions as soon as a Democratic House gets hold of the national purse-strings. The frescoes of the Parliament Buildings at Westminster portray great events in English history. Some faint attempts at a parallel undertaking are now spread over the walls of the Capitol at Washington. The Democracy will doubtless carry out this design. The works of art ordered by the nation between December, 1875, and March, 1877, will naturally represent the events most likely to thrill the Democratic heart and bedew the Democratic eye. There need be no lack of subjects. The short list below might be indefinitely extended.

The principle of "Home Rule" should be illustrated with a cartoon of John Kelly ordering Coroner Woltman to release his friend Croker, accused of murder, on nominal bail.

A legend declaring the immutable nature of Democratic principles and habits would be appropriately displayed beneath a painting of bucolic Berks County Democrats, casting their ballots for Andrew Jackson at the election of 1872.

Hon. Jeremiah Black has recently expressed a touching desire to "wipe the blush of shame" from the "queenly brow" of Pennsylvania. A portrayal of Jeremiah laboring with a mop upon the expansive forehead of the Keystone State would happily combine pathos and joy.

A picture of the to-be-elected Democratic President distributing offices on March 4, 1877, would awaken patriotic zeal throughout the party. To avoid painful heart-burnings, it would be well not to paint in the face of the place-giver until after the National Convention of 1876 had met.

The motto "Commerce flourishes under Democratic rule" might deck a painting of a slave-ship bound for a Southern port. The artist intrusted with this task should receive strict orders not to follow Turner's rendering of the subject.

An awful warning to backsliders could be conveyed by a picture in two scenes. The first would represent Butler, happy in the honor of a seat in the Democratic Convention of 1860, voting steadily for Jeff Davis as the Presidential nominee. In the second, B. F. B. would be examining, without honor or happiness, the returns of the last election. Indeed, if awful warnings are thought necessary, the history of the party for the last fourteen years can furnish them in overflowing abundance. A ram rushing against a locomotive would be a neat allegory. Henry Clay's saying that it was better to walk forty miles to see a man than to write him a letter would aptly follow a painting of the composition of the Brodhead epistle, or, indeed, that of almost any Democratic manifesto since 1860.

The oppression of the South caused by Republican rule could be exemplified by a representation of the late ferocious assault by bloody-minded blacks upon the peaceful, defenseless whites of Vicksburg. The artist could add a bit of ghastly realism by painting the bodies of the one white man and the forty-eight negroes who were killed during this carnival of Republican misrule and murder.

Each of these subjects is a type of a class. Enough of them can be found to keep the persons who are in the habit of getting artistic jobs from Congress busy for at least two years. These persons will, of course, be required to prove that they voted the straight ticket at the last election. If they are wise, they will have a slight admixture of Bourbon in the paints they use. This will insure a certain spirit in their productions.

A VULNERABLE POINT.

Anybody who happens to ride in one of our street cars on a bitterly cold day must be not a little amused at the high fur collars, fur caps, fur ear-warmers, and woolen bandages which the average passenger employs to protect his neck, head, and ears from the frost. But it is rather odd that the instinct of self-preservation should be manifested for the head alone, and that no care should be taken of the feet, considering that they stand most in need of attention. If accurate statistics could be obtained, it would be found that a large percentage of the deaths from consumption are attributable to carelessness in the manner of protecting the feet. A young man who died recently in a neighboring city, in giving a friend a description of his disease, said he was "as strong as a horse" until a certain night, when in riding to his home from a ball in light-soled shoes his feet became "as cold as stones or ice." After that he had never been well again. It would take a long time to count the number of those yet living who date the beginning of their loss of health to some such circumstance; but it is doubtful whether many of their friends have taken a lesson from their sufferings. In the fight for existence which is kept up so vigorously, particularly in cities, most men are too apt to consider it a prodigal waste of time to spend a few minutes every day in so covering the feet as to protect them against the effects of the rapid changes which make our climate so severe. Mufflers for the head and neck can be easily secured, and hence the ridiculous figures which are presented in the street-cars, in the streets, and on the ferry-boats.

The men think they have no time to bother about their feet, and even if they supposed it necessary to health and long life, it is doubtful whether they would be willing to make "old women" of themselves by encumbering their heels with heavy overshoes. Many of those who argue in this sort of way don't take the trouble to substitute stout woolen stockings in Winter for the thin cotton ones worn during the warm weather. These are the kind of men who inveigh so bitterly against the parsimoniousness of street railroad companies for not having their cars heated by steam or stoves, and who literally burn their backs against the steam-pipes on ferry-boats when, half-frozen, they rush into the cabins out of the cold air. When they ride in the stages they raise a clatter with their heels, which renders an up or down town trip anything but agreeable for the chance few who are wise enough to go out protected, from head to toe, against the weather. The reasons for this foolish indifference are manifold, but the chief ones are those with which we desire to deal more particularly. The middle-aged men do not take kindly to the notion of "eternally bothering" with their feet, because as they say, curiously enough, life is too short for such old woman's work. The younger men give a reason, which, while equally absurd, is yet more comprehensible. They are sensitive as to the size of the feet, and even for comfort's sake are unwilling to make them seem larger than they really are. The younger, and we are sorry to say some of the older ladies too, reject overshoes at the expense of their health, from considerations of precisely the same nature. The ladies delight in having their fur hats and fur cloaks, but when it comes to making the tread heavier and the gait more lumbering, and as they suppose, less attractive, they are apt to put off the sober consideration of the subject until the warm weather comes, and then they forget it altogether in the excitement of preparing "something to wear" at the watering-places.

But if men and women will not see the folly of their own actions in regard to clothing for the feet, they surely ought not to be so obstinate where the comfort and health of their children are concerned. It is a common sight just now to see little boys and girls of delicate frames traveling about in the street-cars and on the ferry-boats with heads muffled beyond recognition, while their poor feet have nothing between them and the biting frost but leather of the thickness of ordinary wrapping paper. No wonder that these poor little ones sit so uneasily, and that so many pitiful grunts of dissatisfaction come from the parts of the mufflers where their mouths are expected to be. When a mother takes her children home after "airings" of this character, and finds that in a few days they are all laid up with colds, it seems passing strange that she should be obliged to ask the doctor for his opinion as to how it has come to pass that they had been "struck with illness, just as all of them had been feeling so strong and well." This is the season for appeals for all manner of objects, and many children are giving their savings to provide clothing for little outcasts, without being aware of the extent to which they themselves are in need of help.

PRINCETON COLLEGE.

The Holmes Professorship of Belles-lettres, English Language, and Literature, at Princeton, soon to become vacant by the resignation of Dr. Hart, has been tendered to Rev. J. O. Murray, D. D., Pastor of the Brick Church in this City. Dr. Murray has a wide reputation for great culture and elegant scholarship. Mr. John C. Green's previous munificent gifts to the college, we are gratified to learn, are to be supplemented by an additional hundred thousand dollars to endow the department of Civil Engineering in the School of Science.

AMUSEMENTS.

MISS HEILBRON'S MATINEES.

Miss Heilbron gave the second of a series of piano-forte matinées at Steinway Hall yesterday. She interpreted, as on the earlier occasion, a very varied programme, representative of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Weber, Bellini, Chopin, and Liszt, and her different performances were correct, tasteful, and fluent. A not unimportant feature of yesterday's entertainment was the début of Mlle. Ridenti, an American soprano, whose first appearance in Italy, some time ago, is referred to as having been very successful. Mlle. Ridenti's highest tones are of fair timbre and decided power, but the medium is bad, and the voice generally appears to have been disciplined with so much severity that the singer becomes exhausted after a very brief effort. That Mlle. Ridenti has studied her vocalizes hard was abundantly proved by her execution of "Come per me sereno," but we fancied we detected throughout her singing, either great slenderness of natural resources or the effects of overtraining. Mlle. Heilbron's third matinée is set down for Thursday week.

TO-MORROW'S MATINEE.

Mr. Thomas will give a special matinée concert at Steinway Hall, to-morrow afternoon, wherein Miss Cranch will make her Metropolitan debut. So excellent a programme as that to be interpreted, deserves reproduction *in extenso*, and we accordingly print it. It runs as follows:

Symphony, No. 1, Op. 5	Gade
Aria, "Lascia ch'io pianca," Miss Emma Cranch	Handel
Ciaconne, (first time,)	Bach. Raff.
Overture, "Leonora," No. 3	Beethoven.
Nocturno / Hungarian Melody } Solo for Violin	Ernst.
Mr. S. E. Jacobsohn.	
Aria, "Parto, ma in ben mio," Clemenza di Tito, Miss Emma Cranch.	Mozart.
Rhapsodie, "Evening," Op. 163, new	Raff.
"Coronation March," new	Svendsen

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC.

The final rehearsal previous to the first Philharmonic concert of the Brooklyn society occurs at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to-day. Mlle. Heilbron is to be the vocalist.

OBITUARY.

MR. WATTS PHILLIPS.

The English papers contain the announcement of the death of Mr. Watts Phillips, the dramatist, who expired on Wednesday, Dec. 2, after a long illness, which had for some time compelled him to lay aside his pen. He was born in London toward the close of 1829, and at an early age showed so much aptitude as an artist that Mr. George Cruikshank accepted him as his only pupil, and he pursued his artistic studies at Paris for several years. Ultimately the success of his first play, called "Joseph Chevigny," produced at the Adelphi, in London, in May, 1856, induced him to devote himself to authorship. The great impression on the public made by his drama of "The Dead Heart" caused Mr. Benjamin Webster to secure his services specially for the Adelphi, but eventually other establishments in London were furnished by the now popular dramatist with some of their most attractive novelties. To the Olympic he contributed the drama of "Camilla's Husband;" to the Princess', "Paul's Return" and "The Huguenot Captain," to the Haymarket the burlesque drama of "The Woman in Mauve," and to the Surrey the five-act play of "Theodora" and "Nobody's Child." The drama of "Lost in London," originally brought out at the Adelphi, and now being represented at the Princess' Theatre, London, has kept his name fresh in the memory of the play-goer. Mr. Watts Phillips was also known as a novelist and a frequent contributor to several periodicals.

MACMAHON'S MESSAGE.

The following message from Marshal MacMahon was read to the Deputies in the sitting of the National Assembly on Dec. 3 by Gen. Cissey, the Vice President of the Council:

"Gentlemen: Upon your return to your labors it is the duty of the Government to state to you the general situation of the country, and I am also bound to declare to you sincerely my own sentiments. I have endeavored during your absence scrupulously to fulfill the double mission which was assigned to me, namely, to strengthen peace and maintain order. No interior complication impedes the work of reorganization to which we have devoted ourselves. My Government has neglected no opportunity of affirming, both by its words and acts, its resolution of faithfully meeting all its engagements and rigorously respecting all treaties. This policy, which you have always approved, and in which we have persevered, has daily rendered our relations with foreign powers more friendly. None of them now doubt our sincere desire to maintain pacific and amicable relations with all the Cabinets.

At home the economic situation of the country has sensibly improved. The deficit of last year has been succeeded by an exceptionally good harvest, and, thanks to the circumstances which favored it and the sustained progress of agriculture, agricultural production has reached a figure never before attained. This fortunate abundance, for which we thank Providence, could not fail to have influence in extending business and increasing the general prosperity of the country. Hence industrial activity, which during the first six months slightly slackened by reason of the insufficiency of last year's crop, afterward revived in a marked manner. Our export trade has never been so considerable as during the four months which have just passed, and everything favors the expectation that, as regards the exchanges, the most satisfactory results hitherto obtained will at least be equaled in 1876.

The activity with which works of public utility are being conducted will powerfully contribute to aid this noble effort of national labor. We also reckon upon the national labor to secure a larger revenue from existing taxation. In giving earnest attention to the public finances, and principally to the means of creating the resources necessary to balance revenue and expenditure in the budget for 1875, the Government has acted conformably to your intentions and the country's wishes. It has sought, before all, to make existing taxes produce their full revenue. Measures intended to effect useful reforms in the financial administration, to complete our fiscal legislation, and prevent, as far as possible, frauds of any kind, will shortly be submitted to the Assembly. Our financial situation will further be laid before you in a special report, and you will thus be perfectly able to judge if these measures will suffice to cover the deficit which the financial law of the 8th of August, 1874, allowed to subsist.

In passing through some of our departments I everywhere observed that together with the love of order and the necessity felt for peace and security there was a desire that the organization recognized by you as indispensable should give to the power created by the law of Nov. 20 the strength that it needs to fulfill the mission with which you intrusted it. Incessantly agitated by the propagation of the most pernicious doctrines, the country asks you, in fact, to assure the working of the Government which has to protect it with you, and to guarantee to it by measures of wise foresight the regular action of the public powers during the period of stability which you have promised to France. You will shortly examine these grave questions, and an understanding will, I hope be arrived at between you. I shall not decline my share of responsibility, nor will the intervention of my Government be wanting; but I wish at once to state how I understand my duties toward the Assembly and the country. I did not accept power to serve the aspirations of any party. I only pursue a work of social defence and national restoration. I ardently desire that the support of men of good-will, and all those whose personal preferences bow before present necessities and the sacred cause of the country, may not fail me, and I claim it in the name of France, whose welfare and greatness I have alone in view. But in any case, nothing will discourage me in the accomplishment of my task. On the 20th November, 1873, in the interest of peace, order, and public security, you intrusted to me the executive power for seven years. The same interest renders it a duty for me not to desert the post in which you have placed me, and to occupy it up to the last day with unshaken firmness and a scrupulous respect for the laws."

The message, says Reuter's dispatch, was generally well received, and there was frequent cheering, especially at the second part, which relates to the internal condition of the country. The Left Centre especially applauded the passage asking for the co-operation of all moderate men, and there were unanimous cheers at the statement of the Marshal that he would be guided only by the interests of France and respect for the laws. After the message had been read there were very animated conversations between the Deputies, and the sitting was interrupted for a time.

THE PACIFIC MAIL.

THE INVESTIGATION AT WASHINGTON.

IRWIN'S TESTIMONY UNFINISHED—HIS EXAMINATION STRICTLY SECRET.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The Committee on Ways and Means continued the examination of Irwin to-day by its subcommittee, which met at his room in the hotel as on Wednesday. The testimony is still kept strictly private by order of the committee, and nothing but fragmentary and somewhat doubtful statements of the nature of the testimony taken can be obtained. The statement of the committee in regard to the examination is that Mr. Irwin is in a very weak condition, and that he cannot be kept on the stand for more than an hour or two at a time. They think the ends of truth and justice will be best served by withholding his testimony from publication till he has said all he has to say. They assert that Irwin has answered very frankly and candidly all the questions of the committee, thus far. So far as can be learned, it seems that he has not yet directly implicated any member of Congress in corrupt negotiations for the passage of the subsidy. It is believed that important clues have been given which will enable the committee to learn from other witnesses very important facts concerning the transactions. Subpœnas have been sent to New-York for other witnesses, who are expected to arrive in a day or two. As soon as the object of the committee in keeping the testimony secret has been attained it will be given in full to the press. It is certain that however important or unimportant Irwin's testimony has been up to this time, it is all exceedingly interesting, and will prove a valuable contribution to the solution of the Pacific Mail mystery. A large number of witnesses are in attendance, who will be examined as soon as the committee is through with Irwin. The rumors are constantly renewed in regard to the names of certain Congressmen, but they are not based upon disclosures of new facts. It may be said in this connection that the amount which it is reported Mr. Parsons received as his share in the business was $5,000. As Mr. Parsons had no delicacy about stating that he received a sum of money, he probably has no wish to conceal the amount of it, but whether he has or not, the committee will inquire of him specially about it, and he is likely to be the next witness after Mr. Irwin has concluded. The rival interests which are operating to defeat the renewal of the Pacific Mail subsidy are very great.

MR. JAMES D. SMITH TO BE EXAMINED—THE SUBCOMMITTEE STILL TAKING IRWIN'S TESTIMONY IN SECRET SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The Ways and Means Committee held no meeting this morning, but the subcommittee, consisting of Messrs. Dawes, Kasson, and Beck, are engaged at Irwin's lodgings in the continuation of his examination.

James D. Smith, the only member of the Stockwell Board of Directors, who is now connected with the Pacific Mail Company's management, has been summoned before the Ways and Means Committee to-morrow. It is understood that he will testify that the resolution authorizing the payment of the necessary expenses of Irwin in Washington was adopted by the Board of Directors on motion of President Stockwell, without any intention or expectation that improper means would be employed to influence legislation, and that the board supposed this resolution was designed to cover only, perhaps, a few thousand dollars of legitimate expenses. Mr. Smith, it is said, will also swear that he believes the large sums alleged to have been expended in Washington were really used in New-York in stock operations.

The sub-committee continued their examination of Irwin nearly two hours. Secrecy is still observed, further than that he freely answers all questions, and gave additional information unasked. It is said there was nothing especially important in his testimony, the examination thus far being, for the most part, of a preliminary character, which may prove interesting in its progress. Irwin's health seemed to be better than it was yesterday.

THE OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAM-SHIP COMPANY.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE UNION PACIFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE NEW STEAM-SHIP COMPANY—THE CONTRACT CLOSED—THE CHARTER AND CAPITAL STOCK.

The representatives of the Union Pacific Railroad Company met yesterday morning, in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, to complete the details and remove the minor obstacles to the signing of the contract between them and the Occidental and Oriental Steam-ship Company of California. The Executive Committee of the railway company were present, as were also Boston gentlemen interested in the new steam-ship line. The specific matter disposed of was the proper distribution of the capital stock shares so as to place half of the $10,000,000 in the hands of Eastern and the other half in the hands of Californian holders. Eleven millions had been subscribed altogether—six and a half on the Pacific slope and the remainder East here. The necessary papers and documents signed by the Western men were forwarded, and reached this City this week. Therefore a meeting of the Eastern men, that they might scrutinize the papers, became necessary, and Messrs. Ames, Dexter, Dillon, Bates and others assembled at Room No. 12 Fifth Avenue Hotel on different occasions during the week, as duly reported in THE TIMES. The result of their deliberations is that both parties agreed to sign the contract, and it has been signed. The document, a TIMES reporter was informed, is nothing more than a business arrangement which shall secure hereafter the transportation of the China and Japan trades done by the Occidental and Oriental Steam-ship Company over the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Roads to the Atlantic seaboard. It was the desire of the Directors of the steam-ship company to obtain the railway companies' guarantee against loss in the new enterprise for two years at least. But one of the railway men declared last night that no such stipulation had a place in any article of the contract.

The business has now been fully arranged, it is said, and the meeting yesterday morning brought the preliminary deliberations to a satisfactory conclusion. Nothing remains, therefore, but to get the vessels, chartered in Liverpool at the suggestion of Capt. Bradbury, out to San Francisco. They are the Belgic, Celtic, and Oceanic, of the White Star Line. They have been chartered by the Occidental and Oriental Steam-ship Company for two years, at seven per cent. of their valuation per annum, with the privilege of purchase at the expiration of that time. They will be put upon the line immediately, and the first trip will be made in February, 1875.

Yesterday afternoon, in an interview with a TIMES reporter, C. P. Huntingdon, of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, said that he and the persons he represented had been ready for several days to sign the contract with the parties to the new enterprise, and, so far as he knew, there was no reason why the vessels chartered should not have been put upon the line at once. Neither he nor his friends were "long" or "short" of any stock, and were quite willing to commence operations immediately. The Occidental and Oriental Company was likely to do well, and it had not been started in opposition to, or with a view to injuring, Pacific Mail or any other company. It had been incorporated in California by merchants who felt the need of such a line.

The following is the corporation's charter certificate:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, } SACRAMENTO, Dec. 1, 1874. }

I, Drury Malone, Secretary of State of the State of California, do hereby certify that a copy of articles of incorporation was filed in this office on the 28th day of November, A. D. 1874, containing the following statement of facts:

1. That the name is the Occidental and Oriental Steam-ship Company.

2. That the purpose for which it is formed is to construct, purchase, charter, run freight, control, manage, and own steam and sailing ships and vessels, therewith doing and transacting all kinds of [illegible] and shipping business on the ocean, seas, bays, sounds, and rivers of the world.

3. That its principal place of business is the City and County of San Francisco.

4. That the term for which it is to exist is fifty (50) years.

5. That the number of its Directors or Trustees is five, (5.)

And the names and residences of those who are to act as Directors or Trustees until their successors are elected and qualified.	Leland Stanford, San Francisco, Cal.
	Charles Crocker, Sacramento, Cal.
	David D. Colton, San Francisco, Cal.
	Lloyd Tevis, San Francisco, Cal.
	Mark Hopkins, San Francisco, Cal.

6. That the amount of its capital stock is $10,000,000, and the number of shares into which it is divided is one hundred thousand.

Witness my hand and the great seal of State, at my office, in Sacramento, Cal., the first day of December, A. D. 1874.

[GREAT SEAL.]

DRURY MELONE, Secretary of State.
By N. E. WHITE, Deputy.

A prominent railroad man informed a TIMES reporter yesterday that the contract to run a new line of steamers from San Francisco to China and Japan was signed on Wednesday night. The effect of the new company on Pacific Mail cannot, he said, be otherwise than disastrous, but at the same time he did not think the new line would at first prove a remunerative one. There would not be business enough for the two lines for some time at least, and the result would be that neither would be successful until such period as trade increased. Pacific Mail with the subsidy could, he said, "get along," but he had now no hopes that Congress would continue it. In the face of the recent exposures regarding the manner in which the subsidy was obtained, he thought it very unlikely that the people's representatives would have the hardihood to vote for a continuance of the subsidy. This gentleman said that Mr. Russell Sage had always endeavored to bring about an amicable arrangement between the Pacific Mail Company and the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads, but that all attempts at a fair compromise were opposed by interested parties who are gambling in the stocks of the respective companies.

TAMMANY GENERAL COMMITTEE

PETER WOODS MAKES GRAVE CHARGES—IS DEFEATED, AND OFFERS HIS RESIGNATION—WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT PRIMARIES.

The last meeting of the Tammany General Committee for 1874 was held last night at Tammany Hall, Abram S. Hewitt presiding. A report of E. L. Donnelly, Treasurer, that there were $2,454 87 in the treasury, was accepted. The resignations of Nathaniel Turpenny and William McManus, of the Twenty-first Assembly District, and Jacob Seitz, of the Sixteenth Assembly District, were then read and accepted. Messrs. Turpenny and McManus, have resigned because of alleged frauds in the conduct of political affairs in their district, and Mr. Seitz in consequence of German Democrats not having been accorded their rights and privileges by Tammany Hall. A report of the Committee of Organization, fixing the time for holding the primary elections for delegates to the General Committee for 1875 for Tuesday, the 29th inst., between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock P. M., and naming the inspectors, was then read.

Debate upon the question being in order, Peter Woods arose and moved that the report be so amended as to substitute the names of Matthew M. Blake for James Flood, and Joseph Julian for Thomas E. Barrett, as inspectors of the Sixteenth Assembly District. He said that he advocated the amendment at the request of several members of the General Committee representing his district, and in behalf of nearly two thousand Democratic voters. According to the direction of the Committee on Organization of Tammany Hall a meeting of the General Committee was supposed to be called and held prior to Dec. 12. A meeting was assumed to be held on the 11th inst. at Tammany Hall for the purpose of recommending three inspectors for the primary election. At the so-called meeting there were but sixteen members of the General Committee present, and the proceedings were irregularly conducted, unparliamentary, and contrary to the rules and usages of Tammany Hall. Mr. Woods also stated that he could prove that the men who sat at the meeting voted for inspectors had worked against many of the Tammany candidates on election day, and contended that inasmuch as Flood and Barrett were office-holders, they were disqualified from acting as inspectors. He then read a number of affidavits charging John T. McGowan, Member of Assembly from the Sixteenth Assembly District, Maurice J. Power, John Keefe, and other Tammany politicians, with trading votes for Jones and O'Brien in order to insure McGowan's election, and argued that his amendment should be adopted.

John Kelly said that he hoped the amendment would not be adopted. A majority of the General Committee of the Sixteenth Assembly District had recommended the inspectors named for adoption. The General Committee of the party had nothing to do, he said, with local fights in the various districts. The system of primary elections was not as he would wish, but the evil could not be remedied. He would like to have a reformation of the system brought about, and would welcome any practical suggestion on the part of Mr. Woods or anybody else. He had seen a good many plans tried, however, and thought there was no better plan than the present one.

John T. McGowan denied the truth of Mr. Woods' statements and of the affidavits he had read.

Finally, amid loud cries of "Question, question," the report was adopted as originally read. A resolution was then carried that the present Committee on Organization should be continued in power until a new one was formed in 1875. Mr. Woods then offered a resolution setting forth that primary elections were a farce to deceive electors and perpetuate personal power, but withdrew it amid great excitement.

Arthur J. Delaney, who never loses an opportunity to get his name in print, then offered a long series of resolutions advocating the appointment of honest enumerators to take the next State census.

Peter Woods then tendered his resignation as a member of the General Committee, but the Chairman decided that communications were out of order, and Mr. Woods remains an involuntary member of the committee, which adjourned *sine die* on motion of John Kelly.

JESSUP & CO.

The ready-made clothing business is one which knows neither times nor seasons, inasmuch as the business men engaged in it are not prophets. All they can do is to provide what they think will be most wanted, and what will best suit the public taste, and leave the rest to the clerk of the weather, having assured themselves first that they are going to offer the best goods at the lowest possible prices. This is the business creed of Messrs. Jessup & Co., of No. 256 Broadway, opposite the City Hall. They have gathered together in their vast new store a collection of gentlemen's and youth's Winter clothing and general garments of a quality, style, and variety which cannot easily be surpassed. They have an unusually full line of men's and youths' Winter overcoats, sacks, capes, Heidelbergs, and surtouts, with a *matellasse*, and other facings, at prices ranging all the way from $10 to $60. They also have quite a novelty in the way of overcoats, which is likely to create a sensation among those who travel, or are subject to the exposure of heavy weather. It is known as the "combination" over-coat. It is worthy of the genius of Hermann, the great prestidigitateur, in conception, and of the lovers of warmth and comfort in practical use. It comprises but two garments; but their uses are marvelous. Imagine an ordinary pea-jacket; attach to that at the waist a skirt and band, the band effectually concealing the junction, and you have a splendid Ulster coat. Remove the skirt, throw it gracefully over the shoulders, and you have the cape of the period. Toss it over your knees when driving, and you have a perfect lap-robe. But this "combination" coat must be studied to be appreciated. It can be bought from $28 upward. Messrs. Jessup & Co. have also a full line of men's and youths' general clothing of the best styles; also of robes and library jackets, in cap, plain worsted, velveteen, poplin, and silk, with silk, satin, and al other facings; also, a full line of gentlemen's furnishing goods, including scarfs, ties, hosiery, fine dress shirts, dog and castor gloves, and Dent and also Courvoisaer's kid gloves. Messrs. Jessup & Co. make, if required, all custom goods at stock price. As they only opened their store on the 1st of May last, purchasers may naturally rest assured that they are buying the newest styles and fashions.

CARL VOGT TO BE EXTRADITED.

It was reported at Police Head-quarters last night that the warrant for the extradition of Carl Vogt, the alleged murderer of the Chevalier Du Bois De Blanco, in whose employ he was in Belgium, has been issued by United States Commissioner Gutman, and has received the signature of President Grant. The warrant has been placed in the hands of Detective Philip Farley, of the Central Office, who arrested Vogt in this City, and he will convey the accused to Brussels for trial.

DEATH OF A LITTLE CIRCUS PET.

Minnie Hogle, a beautiful little four-year-old child, who assumed the character of the Lilliputian Queen in Barnum's Congress of Nations, died rather suddenly a few days since. Minnie, who was the daughter of W. F. Hogle, one of the attachés of the Hippodrome, endeared herself to all by her winning ways and was the pet of the company. She accompanied Prof. Donaldson, Mr. Thomas, and five lady passengers in a balloon ascension at Cincinnati, last October, during a violent storm, at her own request, and attracted general commendation by her courage during a rather perilous trip. She was probably the youngest person who had ever participated in a balloon ascension.

FRANCE.

PARISIAN ELECTIONS—THE ASSEMBLY.

THE CHOICE OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS—INCIDENTS OF THE DAY—THE CONVENING OF THE LEGISLATURE—GOSSIP.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, Sunday, Nov. 29, 1874.

The general elections for the choice of Aldermen, or members of the Municipal Council, took place yesterday, and with the result that was predicted. It was clear to everyone that we were to have another "Barodet affair," and that Paris was once more burning to administer a sharp reproof to the General Government. It may not be out of place to remind my readers that the City of Paris is divided into twenty arrondissements, each of which has a Mayor and one or two Sub-Mayors, or Adjoints. These twenty Mayors and some forty or forty-five Adjoints are under the Mayor of Paris, who is a very important functionary. Each of these arrondissements is divided into four sections, called *quartiers*, having in ordinary life the signification of the English word *quarters* and of *fourths*—that is one-fourth of an arrondissement, in official parlance. Each quarter elects one member of the Municipal Council. This gives us four to each arrondissement, or eighty members for the twenty arrondissements into which the city is divided. The municipality uses the word *quartier* as an equivalent for our term "ward." Yesterday we had a great variety of tickets in the field, the chief of them being the "Conservative ticket, composed of anti-Republicans of all sorts; the Moderate Republican, or the friends of M. Thiers; the Liberal Republican, the ticket of M. Gambetta's organ *La Republique Française*, a sort of melange, half and half, or mixture of Radicalism and Republicanism; and the Radical ticket put forward by the *Rappel*. Between the two last there is not a very wide difference, for the Liberals of the Gambetta stamp are generally red enough to merit the patronage of the *Rappel*. More than half the names given on the former's list were also found on the list of the extreme Radicals, and this, taken with the fact that both went for the re-election of certain members of the old Council, left the two lists at variance in four or five quarters only. In those cases the *Rappel* list was carried, which fact proves that the electors of Paris voted Radical to the furthest possible extreme. Of the eighty candidates elected, seventy-three are Radicals; in two cases there was no choice; and in the remaining quarters Conservatives were chosen—and these were all elected in one arrondissement, the Eighth, Faubourg St. Honore. This is a very rich part of the city, and it is habited mainly by foreigners and the wealthy French nobility. There are few working men, and the shop-keepers are all dependent upon Conservative customers for support. With this exception, the entire city went strongly Radical, and the fact destroys all immediate hopes of having the state of siege replaced by the reign of the civil law. One of the morning papers describes the state of siege as that condition of things which permits the Executive to do whatever he pleases without being accountable to any one, and which enables him to act as he sees fit without having to give any other reason than the *raison d'état*.

INCIDENTS.

On the whole, the elections passed off in a very quiet manner. There were but few incidents worthy of note, and but little excitement. This was in a manner due to the state of the weather. In the morning we had a powerful tempest that did considerable damage, and the wind blew fiercely, tearing down signs and menacing the chimney-pots with a sudden fall. Rain fell after midday. On this account the voting did not commence until after 1 o'clock. The police force was doubled, and squads of cavalry were constantly patrolling the streets. A few men in their cups tried to utter some sort of cries, but they were quickly arrested, and a few personal encounters attracted the immediate attention of the *gendarmes*. As a general thing there was more gayety than ill-feeling, and the various parties seemed to be on the best of terms. Among the candidates was M. Perrin, Director of the Théâtre Français, who was lately the subject of considerable newspaper comment. He was blamed for giving "Le Sphynx," with Mlle. Croizette in her horrible death scene, in this classical theatre, *la maison de Molière*. Yesterday a caricature was circulated, the figure being the actress in the contortions of her death-scene, over which were the words, "Vote for Croissette!" and beneath, "Perrin, *Sphinxit*." The evening, however, was less calm than the day. The boulevards were crowded, and there was a certain amount of agitation about the Hill of Montmartre. A patrol of cuirassiers passed every half hour. The main incident of the day occurred at Frascati's concert and ball. M. Litolff was giving one of his works, the overture to the "Last Days of the Reign of Terror," in which are incorporated a few measures of the "Marseillaise." Ordinarily the most of this overture is suppressed, particularly the passages in question, only a few bars being given at the beginning. But as the *Soir* came in with the election returns, M. Liotff saw fit to give the overture entire, out of compliment, it is said, to the Radicals, who had gained so complete a victory. But a few of the usually suppressed bars had been played, when the audience saw the point, and some began to hiss and stamp, and others to applaud. There was great excitement in a moment, and the spectators rose to their feet, insults began to be bandied about, and the danger of a fight was imminent, when the police interfered. The director denied that the orchestra intended to play the whole of the overture, but the fact was affirmed by many persons present, and the incident caused considerable emotion upon the boulevards.

THE ASSEMBLY.

The Assembly meets to-day at Versailles, after its long vacation. What will be done is more than any man can now say, and speculations are idle. The Government comes before the Chamber without a majority, and up to yesterday I was inclined to think that it would not be able to find one. But the alarming tendency of the elections may have the effect caused by the election of Barodet, and frighten the moderate men of all parties into a coalition. After the defeat of M. De Rémusat, the coalition was formed which afterward overthrew M. Thiers, and which was known as the "Majority of the 24th of May." During the past few weeks active efforts have been made to bring about an understanding between the Right and Left Centres, but they failed, and M. D'Audiffret-Pasquier resigned as Chairman of the former group. It was thought that his imperious manners, bad temper, and arrogant way of speaking might have something to do with this failure. As a politician the Duke is a failure. He began by making enemies of the Bonapartists, and the time has now come when their aid is indispensable; and he is so strong an Orleanist that the Republicans cannot trust him. The position was offered to the Duc De Broglie, one of the most eminent men we now have, but after sounding the questions at issue between the two factions he came to the conclusion that he could not bring about harmony, and hence declined. M. Booher is now the Chairman of this group. There is some talk of bringing M. Dufaure into the Cabinet, but the Republicans demand still another portfolio, and a frank avowal of the Republic.

POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The anxiety of the Government is shown in many ways. It encouraged M. De Girardin in his new enterprise with the journal *La France*, and it gave the requisite authority to revive the *Courrier de France*, to advocate the theories of the Septennate, and the immediate constitution of the powers of Marshal MacMahon. There are on record upward of sixty demands for authority to bring out new journals or to revive old ones, but the Government announced that no authorizations would be given to any one until the Chamber had passed the Press law. *L'Ordre* recently asked authority to publish a morning edition, and was refused, and it then bought another journal, but the Government declined to sanction the transfer. Great is the dissatisfaction, therefore, when M. Guizot-Montpayroux gets authority to revive the *Courrier De France*, because it is pledged to support the Septennate, when all others are refused. It was apropos to this that the remark about the state of siege, which I have above quoted, was made in the columns of this new journal. It says that its confrères need not make an outcry about this favoritism, for if the state of siege is good for anything it is just on occasions like this, for the sole beauty of it is that the Executive can show favoritism to his friends without being forced to give any sort of reason or excuse. This is a bold assertion, but of course it is only the expression of a truth that was in every mind. We were perfectly aware of all that, but ordinarily men employ some sort of euphemism to cover up the worst sides of such inexcusable acts. The Government has now some eight or ten journals upon its side, and it is trying hard to convince the people that in the way of government there is nothing that can be compared with the MacMahon Septennate. All these efforts are directed at M. Thiers, who is greatly feared just at this time, and with great good reason, in my opinion.

AN AMERICAN HOLIDAY.

Thanksgiving Day was kept by Americans in Paris in the usual way. Services were held in the chapels, and a collection was taken up for the benefit of the American charitable fund. This simple act has given rise to no small amount of hard-feelings. It seems that the chaplains took it upon themselves to make this collection without consulting the President of the Charitable Association, and sent out the notice without communicating it directly to him. I do not see any harm in this course, for the motive was a good one, but it seems that the thing was not done in the proper manner, and hence a large crop of gossip has resulted. Generally speaking, I must say that perfect harmony is rare among Americans in Paris, but I shall not indicate the reasons for this fact that are frequently heard. If there is any one thing that should unite all in one common sentiment, it ought certainly to be charity.

RELIGION AND SCIENCE.

SYNOPSIS OF LECTURE BY PROF. DAWSON AT THE MADISON SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The third of the series of lectures on "The Bible and Science," by J. W. Dawson, LL. D., Principal of McGill College, Montreal, was delivered last evening, at the Madison Square Presbyterian Church, in the presence of a large audience, including a number of well-known scientists. The subdivision of the subject treated was "The Science of the Earth in its relation to the Bible." In the introductory prayer by Rev. Dr. Rogers, of the Dutch Reformed Church, special reference was made to the growing harmonious relations between science and revealed religion. In the commencement of his discourse Prof. Dawson observed that at no point had modern science appeared to infringe more closely on the Bible than in the relations of geology to the revelations of Scripture. No triumph of inductive science was greater than that by which it had given us a connected history in Genesis of the states of the earth and its inhabitants through a long series of ages before the existence of man, and in no particular had it insisted so strongly that the earth was formed in six days. To understand the idea of long periods, associated with the thought, he would throw into its consideration a few general propositions, the great leading results of scientific investigation. The first was that the widest and most important generalizations of modern theology were that all materials of the earth's crust to which we could penetrate were not primitive rocks, but the result of the operation of causes and changes such as are even now in progress. The composition of these rocks may be widely diversified, but they are the débris of older rocks, broken and crushed, or the limestone made up of corals or coals, or they may be substances analogous to the lavas of modern volcanoes. Whatever may be their character, they are the product of causes acting since the creation of the earth, and therefore we have now no such things as primary rocks, but rocks of secondary origin. The old rocks on which the City of New York is built, are composed of old sediments, mud, and sand, brought into their present condition by the action of heat, and the rocks of New-Jersey were the result of animal deposits, while the Palisades were constructed through the direct action of old volcances. This being ascertained, they could form an idea of the manner in which successive deposits from water are piled on each other, and a regular succession could be traced in the beds of the earth. This series of regular compilations acquired an immense increase of scientific value from the fact that organic remains of the animals and plants inhabiting the earth at the different stages of its progress were still to be found in successive deposits, and these remains indicate successive dynasties of life different from that existing and from each other He put this forward under the statement which is more akin to what we have in Scripture than in science that the plan of the Creator in the history of this world is so vast a plan that the whole world is not big enough or varied enough to contain it for any one time, and, therefore, we have one set of plants and animals and another set, and then finally those that are now in the world. Putting these together, we get the whole system of animal and vegetable life, and the plan of the Creator indicates that all the previous stages of earth were furnished with others, and one state gave way only to be replaced by another. The lapse of time embraced in this geological history of the earth is enormous. The period known as the modern kingdom includes the period of human history and immediately preceding period, and if they were measured by the growth of coral reefs consequent on the deposit of sediment a period of time is to be measured by thousands of years. In the great coal formations of Nova Scotia a hundred strata are discoverable, separated by composite matter, and interlaced with other material substances, each revealing separate action occurring at different periods. Turning to Genesis and its story about the formation of the world in six days. Prof. Dawson commented on the methods usually suggested for the correction of the Bible in matters of detail, observing that to offer an excuse for it was to place its teachings on a very low basis. We could not say that the vague term "beginning" covered our theological ages, and that the Bible history refers only to the work immediately preceding the introduction of man. In one of the epistles it was set forth that the rest God took on the Sabbath was an indefinite period of time, and in Ephesians it is evident that this idea was present in the mind of the poetic. The judgment of many Christian men of science is that these questions are worthy the attention of theologians, and it might be better for them to abandon altogether what is really a kind of mediæval idea, and going to the authority of the Apostles, join with the men of theology and science in asserting that the days of the Bible are as long as the days of indefinite length described by Moses, or as long as it was desirable to make them. The word day in a Jewish sense did not mean the distinctly defined period which we understand it, to be, and in the fourth chapter of Genesis the whole work of creation is called one day. The lecturer cited from the Psalms justly attributed to Moses as evidencing the assertion that a day was an indefinite period, and there were incidents in the life of the Saviour transmitted to us which showed that this was his conception of the creative days referred to in the Bible. The explanation of the whole mystery is that the creative days are enormously long, and we have no right to regard them as literal days at all. It was not left to geologists to discover, and notwithstanding the fact that this impression of the Biblical narrative pervaded all antiquity, it was entertained by Augustine and other patriarchs of the Church.

Mr. Brentano (No. 33 Union square) has received the *British Almanac and Companion*, which deserves to be reckoned as the most useful of all the almanacs. Its astronomical information is remarkably clear and full, and the thermometrical ranges for every day during the year is given on each page. The subject of education also receives careful attention. The *Companion* to the Almanac contains articles on "Stellar Distances," by W. T. Lynn; on the "Arabic Numerals," by Prof. Axon; on Sanitary Measures, by J. P. Harrison, and on other important subjects by competent writers. Altogether, the *Almanac* (now in its fiftieth year of publication, or thereabouts) is well worthy of a place on the library table.

Mr. Brentano has also received the Christmas number of *London Society*, full of interesting stories and good pictures.

SELF-CULTURE.—Self-knowledge is the key to universal knowledge, and this is the key to the science of mind. THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL, now in its sixtieth volume, is the chief exponent of Physiognomy, Physiology, Ethnology, Psychology, and How to Read Character. Only $3 a year; $1 50 for half a year; new volume. Address S. R. WELLS, 389 Broadway, N. Y.—*Advertisement.*

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES.

THE NEW-YORK SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES, published THIS MORNING, contains the very latest telegraphic and general news; editorials on matters of current interest; a page of carefully-prepared commercial matter, giving the latest financial news and market reports, items of agricultural and domestic interest, and other interesting reading matter.

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MARRIED.

CUNNINGHAM—WHITE.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the Church of the Incarnation, by Rev. Dr. Washburn, WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, of Baltimore, to ISABEL, daughter of Giles White, Esq., of this City.

CHOISEUL—FORBES.—At Geneva, Switzerland, at the Mairie, and afterward at the Catholic church, the Duke of CHOISEUL-PRASLIN, Peer of France, to ELISE W., daughter of Paul Forbes, of New-York.

EGGLESTON—TOWNSEND.—In Brooklyn, at the residence of the bride's mother, Wednesday, Dec. 16, by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, FRANCIS M. EGGLESTON to SARAH F. TOWNSEND, all of Brooklyn.

☞ Troy, N. Y., and Rutland County, Vt., papers please copy.

INGRAHAM—CROWELL.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874, at the Summerfield M. E. Church, by Rev. Thomas H. Burch, assisted by Rev. J. M. Bulkley, GEORGE INGRAHAM to CLARA E., daughter of Stephen Crowell, all of Brooklyn.

KIRBY—NASH.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. Thomas S. Hastings, D. D., EUGENE S. KIRBY to EVA J., daughter of John Nash, Esq.

LEWIS—COX.—On Thursday, Dec. 17, 1874, by Rev. A. B. Hart, ROBERT LEWIS to MARIA, daughter of the late William Cox.

McCOY—AUTEN.—In Brooklyn, on Wednesday, 16th inst., by Rev. A. S. Hunt, D. D., at the residence of the bride's parents, GEORGE A. McCOY, of Orange, N. J., to EMMA F., daughter of John G. Auten.

SPRAGUE—RHODES.—In Providence, R. I., Dec. 15, by Rev. Augustus Woolbury, DANIEL F. SPRAGUE, of New-York, and ELEANORA SINCLAIR RHODES, daughter of the late Edward S. Rhodes, of Providence.

DIED.

CABLE.—On Thursday, Dec. 17, HARRY GILBERT, youngest child of George W. and Nelly H. Cable, aged 1 year, 6 months, and five days.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral at the residence of his parents, No. 19 East 138d st., on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 19, at 1 o'clock.

CALHOUN.—Thursday morning, 17th inst., at his residence, No. 198 Dean st., Brooklyn, ANDREW H. CALHOUN, aged 76 years.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

CARNES.—At Santa Barbara, Cal., on Friday, Nov. 27, MARIA DOMITILA, wife of Henry Carnes.

COFFIN.—Thursday, Dec. 17, 1874, of malignant scarlet fever, MINNIE, only child of Timothy and Anna Coffin, aged 14 years, 3 months, and 17 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from the residence of her parents, No. 404 West 20th st., on Saturday morning, at 11 o'clock A. M.

DASHIELL.—At Minneapolis, Minn., suddenly of diphtheria, on Wednesday, Dec. 16, in the 25th year of his age, JOHN L. MASON DASHIELL, eldest son of Rev. A. H. Dashiell, Jr., and grandson of late Hon. John L. Mason, of this City.

HOWE.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, of apoplexy, ANNA, widow of the late James Howe, in the eightieth year of her age.

Funeral on Friday, Dec. 18, at 1 o'clock, at the residence of her son-in-law, Cyrus Lawrence, South Salem, Westchester County, N. Y. Trains leave Grand Central Depot at 8:30 and 10:05 A. M. for Katonah Station, where carriages will be in waiting.

LINDEN.—On Thursday, Dec. 17, after a long and severe illness, Hon. HENRY A. LINDEN, in the 35th year of his age.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

MARSELLUS.—On Dec. 16, 1874, at Passaic, N. J., I. C. MARSELLUS, aged 43 years.

The friends and relatives are invited to attend his funeral, from the North Reformed Church of Passaic, on Friday, the 18th inst., at 1 o'clock P. M. Trains leave foot of Chambers st., via Erie Railway, at 12 o'clock M.

McDONNAL.—At King's Bridge, Dec. 17, DOMINICK McDONNAL, aged 60 years.

Funeral on Saturday, 19th inst., at 9 o'clock, St. John's Church, King's Bridge.

MOORE.—At New-Hamburg, SAMUEL S. MOORE, in the 87th year of his age.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral on Saturday at 10:30 o'clock A. M. at the Reformed Dutch Church, English Neighborhood, (Midgefield Station.) Train leaves foot of Chambers st. at 9:30.

PECK.—At Greenwich, Conn., on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874, AROD PECK, aged 83 years.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral at the residence of his son, Edward A. Peck, Greenwich, Conn., on Friday, Dec. 18, at 2 o'clock P. M. Carriages will be in waiting on the arrival of the 12 M. train from New-York.

STRATTON.—On Tuesday evening, Dec. 15, of croup, GEORGE, only son of Amos B. and Rose Stratton, aged 1 year and 11 months.

The relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, on Friday, the 18th inst., at 10 o'clock A. M., from the residence of his parents, No. 408 East 53d st.

SMITH.—On Thursday, Dec. 17, at New-Brighton, Staten Island, ELIZA, widow of the late James Elnathan Smith, aged 67 years.

Funeral at Christ Church, New-Brighton, on Sunday, the 20th inst., at 10 A. M. A boat leaves Whitehall at 9 A. M., connecting with car for New-Brighton.

SMITH.—At his residence, Mount Vernon, Ohio, Dec. 15, Dr. HARVEY W. SMITH, formerly of this City, in the 49th year of his age.

☞ Litchfield County, Conn., papers please copy.

SLOAN.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, IRENE HELEN, daughter of the late William Dunbar and Mary Theodosia Sloan.

The friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral at the residence of her brother, Thomas J. Sloan, No. 14 Prospect place, East 41st st., on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 12 M.

TAYLOR.—In New-Rochelle, on Wednesday morning, Dec. 16, THOMAS TAYLOR, son of Jacob and Mary Taylor, aged 16 years.

Funeral services on Sunday at 2 o'clock, from the M. E. Church.

TAYLOR.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874, in the 56th year of her age, CATHARINE, wife of Andrew Taylor of Mount Pleasant, Westchester County.

Funeral services on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 o'clock A. M., at the First M. E. Church, White Plains.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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THE BEST SUNDAY NEWSPAPER.
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THE BE

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.

NEW-YORK, Thursday, Dec. 17, 1874.

The receipts of the principal kinds of Produce since our last have been as follows:

Ashes, pks.	27	Hides, bales	257
Cotton, bales	1,025	Leather, sides	10,680
Copper, bbls.	60	Oil-cake, pks.	528
Dried Fruit, pks.	427	Pork, pkgs.	2,732
Eggs, bbls.	948	Beef, pkgs.	652
Flour, bbls.	7,994	Cut-meats, pks.	1,053
Wheat, bushels	23,760	Lard, pkgs.	1,051
Corn, bushels	42,950	Stearine, pks.	138
Oats, bushels	7,700	Butter, pks.	2,894
Rye, bushels	200	Cheese, pks.	1,183
Malt, bushels	650	Dressed Hogs, No.	296
Beans, bbls.	477	Pelts, bdls.	250
Peas, bushels	600	Skins, No.	33
Corn-meal, bbls.	100	Starch, pks.	2,351
Corn-meal, bags	2,457	Tow, bales	9
S. Wheat Flour, pks.	146	Tobacco, hhds. & cases	14
Hops, bales	135	Tobacco, bxs. & cases	13
Hides, No.	465	Whisky, bbls.	633

ASHES—A very limited business has been noted in all kinds, including Pots at $6 50, and Pearls at $8 50 @ 100 lbs.

COCOA—Has been quite dull, since our last, with Maracaibo, prime to choice, quoted at 28c.@28c., Caracas, 14c.@16c., Guayaquil at 10c.@10½c., and San Domingo at 6¾c.@7c., gold; offerings, limited.

COFFEE—Rio has been quoted steady, but without further movements of importance in the stock of Rio since our last report. Included in the sales have been 4,450 bags, mostly ordinary, at quoted rates, of which were 1,250 bbls. good Extra State at $5 15 @ bbl. Southern Flour has been in pretty fair request, but only moderately active demand on the basis of our quotations; 5,000 bags Maracaibo sold at 17¾c.@19c., gold, with the recent movements (in good part previously reported) summed up thus: 12,900 mats Java, ex sundry vessels; 10,397 bags Maracaibo, do.; 652 bags Savanilla, 835 bags Ceylon, 116 bags Jamaica, sold in lots for consumption within our range. Stock of other than Rio and Santos in first hands here this morning estimated at 16,281 bags and 359 mats. We now quote invoices thus: Rio, ordinary, 17c.@17¼c.; fair, 17¾c.@18c.; good, 18¼c.@18¾c.; prime, 19c.@19½c.; gold, @ ½c. 60 days' credit; Rio, in job lots, 17c.@20c., gold; Java, invoices, 25c.@28c.; Maracaibo, 16½c.@19c.; Laguayra, 17¼c.@19c.; Ceylon, 17c.@19c.; Mocha, 28c.@29c. gold, @ lb.

OIL-TOP—Has been in quite moderate request for early delivery, chiefly for spinning purposes, at essentially unchanged prices. Sales have been reported since our last of 1,113 bales, (of which 116 bales were sold this evening,) including 310 bales to shippers, 772 bales to spinners, and 30 bales to speculators. There has been a less active movement reported for forward delivery, prices showing considerable irregularity, opening a shade stronger, afterward supported, then declining under rumors of large subsequently receding under rumors of large receipts at New-Orleans, but these rumors not having been confirmed, the market rallied about ⅛c. @ lb., and closed firm. Sales have been reported since our last of 20,100 bales, (of which 5,500 bales were on last evening, and 14,600 bales today,) with 2,300 bales more at the calls, on the basis of Low Middling, with December options closing at 13 31-32c.; January, 13 31-32c.@14c.; February, 14c.; March, 14¼c.; April, 15c.; May, 15 7-16c.@15 15-32c.; June, 15¾c.; July, 16 1-16c.; August, 16 3-16c.@16¼c. @ lb. Receipts to-day, 1,025 bales here, and 24,121 bales at all the shipping ports. The following are prices are based on Cotton according to the low classification:

	Uplands.	Alabama.	N. Orleans.	Texas.
Ordinary	12c.	11¾c.	11¾c.	11¾c.
Good Ordinary	13c.	13c.	13¼c.	13¼c.
Low Middling	14c.	13¾c.	14	14
Middling	14¼c.	14¼c.	14¼c.	14¼c.
Good Middling	14¾c.	14¾c.	14¾c.	14¾c.
Middling Fair	15c.	15c.	15c.	15c.
Fair	15¾c.	15¾c.	16	16

EARTHENWARE—Trade has been extremely dull, and weak and unsettled in prices, in view of the early liberal supplies available and pressing on the market.

FISH—A moderate inquiry prevails for the leading kinds, which have been quoted generally steady in price. We quote: Dry Cod from $3 45@$3 95 @ 112 lbs.; chiefly at $3 75@$3 95 @ cwt.; No. 1 Mackerel at $10 50@$14; No. 2 at $9 50@$10 50; No. 3 at $8@$9 @ bbl. Pickled Herrings at $4 75@$7; Smoked Herrings, 28c.@35c. for uncaled, and 25c.@29c. for No. 1 @ box. Dutch Herrings, 95c.@$1 @ keg.

FLOUR AND MEAL—A moderate inquiry has been noted for shipping grades of Southern and Western Flour at essentially unchanged quotations, and a few lines, with a number of odd lots of Extras, have been purchased for export, apart from which there has been very slow movement in the stock generally within our range, to the advantage as to values having been in favor of buyers. The sales since our last have been 11,700 bbls., of all grades, including No. 2 Flour at $3 60@$4 10; chiefly at $3 90@$4 10; inferior to fancy Superfine State and Western at $4 15@$4 75, chiefly at $4 25@$4 55; inferior to very choice Extra State at $4 80@$5 25, mainly at $4 90@$5 15; poor to very fancy do. and City Mills Extras, $5 25@choice and fancy do. and City Mills Extras, $5 25@choice and fancy do. and City Mills Extras, $5 25@choice and

SHIPPING.

WHITE STAR LINE.
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL, CARRYING UNITED STATES MAILS.
NEW AND FULL-POWERED STEAM-SHIPS.
Sailing from New-York on SATURDAYS, from Liverpool on THURSDAYS, calling at Cork Harbor for each way.
REPUBLIC.....SATURDAY, Dec. 19, at 1 P.M.
BALTIC.....SATURDAY, Jan. 2, at 1 P.M.
CELTIC.....SATURDAY, Jan. 16, at 12 noon.
From White Star Dock, Pier No. 42 North River.
These new accommodations (for all classes) unrivaled.
SAFETY, SPEED, AND COMFORT.
Rates, State-rooms, Smoking-room, and Bath-rooms in midship section, where least motion is felt. Surgeons and Stewardesses carried by these steamers.
Saloon, $80, gold; second cabin, $140, gold; steerage, $30, currency. Those wishing to send for their friends in the old country can now obtain steerage prepaid certificates at low rates.
Passengers booked to or from all parts of America to Paris, Hamburg, Norway, Sweden, India, Australia, &c.
Drafts from £1 upward.
For inspection of plans and other information apply at the Company's offices, No. 19 Broadway, New-York.
E. H. CORTIS, Agent.

CUNARD LINE B. & N. A. R. M. S. P. CO.
NOTICE.
With the view of diminishing the chances of collision, the steamers of this line take a specified course for all parts of the year.
On the outward passage from Queenstown to New-York or Boston, crossing meridian of 50 at 43 latitude, or nothing to the north of 43.
On the homeward passage, crossing the meridian of 50 at 43, or nothing to the north of 43.
FROM NEW-YORK FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENSTOWN.
RUSSIA.....WED., Dec. 23, PARTHIA.....WED., Jan. 6
JAVA.....WED., Dec. 30 ALGERIA.....WED., Jan. 13
These steamers touch at Queenstown to land passengers. They do not carry steerage passengers.
Cabin passage, $80, $100, $150, and $200, according to accommodations.
Return tickets on favorable terms.
Steerage tickets to and from all parts of Europe at moderate rates. Freight and cabin offices, No. 4 Bowling Green. Steerage office, No. 2 Broadway. (Trinity Building.)
CHAS. G. FRANCKLYN, Agent.

FOR LIVERPOOL,
(VIA QUEENSTOWN,)
CARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAILS.
THE LIVERPOOL AND GREAT WESTERN STEAM COMPANY will dispatch one of their first-class full-powered iron screw steam-ships from
PIER NO. 46 NORTH RIVER, EVERY TUESDAY, as follows:
WYOMING, Capt. GUARD.....Dec. 22, 2:30 P. M.
MINNESOTA, Capt. FRANCIS.....Jan. 5, 2:30 P. M.
NEVADA, Capt. PARSONS.....Jan. 19, 2:30 P. M.
Cabin passage, $80, gold.
Steerage passage, (Office No. 29 B'way,) at low rates.
For freight or cabin passage apply to
WILLIAMS & GUION, No. 63 Wall st.

ONLY DIRECT LINE TO FRANCE.
THE GENERAL TRANSATLANTIC COMPANY'S MAIL STEAM-SHIPS BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND HAVRE.
The splendid vessels on this favorite route for the Continent, (being more south by ten any other,) will sail from Pier 50 North River as follows:
PEREIRE, DANES.....Saturday, Dec. 26
LABRADOR, FRENCH.....Saturday, Jan. 9
ST. LAURENT, FRENCH.....Saturday, Jan. 23
RATES OF PASSAGE IN GOLD, (including wine.)
First Cabin, $120. Second Cabin, $75. Third, $35.
Excursion tickets at reduced rates.
Americans travelers by taking this line, avoid both transit by English railway and the discomforts of crossing the Channel, besides saving time, trouble, and expense.
GEORGE MACKENZIE, Agent. 55 Broadway.

NATIONAL LINE.
From Piers Nos. 44 and 47 North River.
TO QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL
ERYRIA.....Saturday, Dec. 19, 11 A. M.
HELVETIA.....Sunday, Dec. 26, 8 A. M.
ITALY.....Saturday, Jan. 2, 12 M.
FOR LONDON DIRECT.
GREECE.....Saturday, Dec. 19, 10:30 A. M.
Cabin passage, $80 and $70, currency. Steerage, at greatly reduced rates. Return tickets at reduced rates. Prepaid steerage tickets from Liverpool at the lowest rates. Apply at the company's office, No. 69 Broadway.
P. W. J. HURST, Manager.

DOLAN LINE.—SOUTHERLY COURSE.
Royal Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows:
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.
CITY OF NEW-YORK.....Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 2 P. M.
CITY OF LONDON.....Saturday, Dec. 26, at 3 A. M.
CITY OF MONTREAL.....Saturday, Jan. 2, 1875, at 1 P. M.
CITY OF PARIS.....Saturday, Jan. 9, at 7 A. M.
CITY OF BROOKLYN.....Saturday, Jan. 16, at noon
CABIN PASSAGE, $80, $90, and $70, gold.
STEERAGE.—To and from all points, at reduced rates.
Pier 15 East River, foot of Fulton st.
Steerage offices, No. 33 Broadway, or Pier No. 45 North River. JOHN G. DALE, Agent.

ANCHOR LINE.
NEW-YORK AND GLASGOW.
STEAMER EVERY SATURDAY.
RATES OF PASSAGE PAYABLE IN GOLD.
TO GLASGOW, LONDONDERRY, OR BELFAST:
Cabin, $50, $60, and $70, according to accommodations.
INTERMEDIATE AND STEERAGE
as low as by any other first-class line.
Drafts issued for any amount at lowest rates.
Company's offices, No. 7 Bowling green.
HENDERSON BROTHERS, Agents.

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD STEAM-SHIP CO.
FOR SOUTHAMPTON AND BREMEN.
The steam-ship HANSA, Capt. ELVE KIST, will sail on SATURDAY, Dec. 19, 2 P. M., from Brooklyn, foot of 8th., Hoboken, to be followed by steam-ship ODER, Capt. KV. OTTENDORP, on SATURDAY, Dec. 26.
RATES OF PASSAGE TO LONDON, HAVRE, AND BREMEN:
First cabin.....$100 gold.
Second cabin.....60 gold.
Steerage.....24 currency.
For freight or passage apply to
OELRICHS & CO., Agents, No. 2 Bowling green.

GREAT SOUTHERN FREIGHT AND PASSENGER LINE
FOR CHARLESTON, S. C., THE FLORIDA PORTS, AND THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST,
SAILING EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, AT 3 P. M.,
From Pier No. 29 North River.
MANHATTAN, Capt. R. R. WOODRELL, Saturday, Dec. 19.
CHARLESTON, Capt. J. SEERY, Tuesday, Dec. 29.
SOUTH CAROLINA, Capt. J. T. BECKETT, Thursday, Dec. 24.
Superior accommodations for passengers.
Insurance by this line ONE-HALF PER CENT.
Goods forwarded free of commission.
Passage tickets and bills of lading issued and signed at the office of
JAMES W. QUINTARD & CO., Agents,
No. 177 West st., (corner of Warren,)
Or W. P. CLYDE & CO.,
No. 6 Bowling green.
Through freight tariffs. Passage tickets by all routes and to all points in the South and South-west, and further information can be obtained at the office of
BENTLEY D. HASKELL,
General Agent Great Southern Freight Line,
No. 317 Broadway.

FOR SAVANNAH, GA.
THE FLORIDA PORTS,
AND THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST.
GREAT SOUTHERN FREIGHT AND PASSENGER LINE.
CENTRAL RAILROAD OF GEORGIA, AND ATLANTIC AND GULF RAILROAD.
FOUR STEAM-SHIPS PER WEEK.
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS.
SAN SALVADOR, Capt. NICKERSON, SATURDAY, Dec. 19, from Pier No. 43 North River, at 3 P. M.
WM. E. GARRISON, Agent.
No. 5 Bowling green.
GULF STREAM, Capt. FAIRCLOTH, SATURDAY, Dec. 19, from Pier No. 1½ North River, at 3 P. M.
E. LOWDEN, Agent.
No. 93 West st.
CLEOPATRA, Capt. BURKLEY, TUESDAY, Dec. 22, from Pier No. 16 North River, at 3 P. M.
MURRAY, FERRIS & CO., Agents,
No. 62 South st.
H. LIVINGSTON, Capt. MALLORY, THURSDAY, Dec. 24, from Pier No. 43 North River, at 3 P. M.
WM. E. GARRISON, Agent.
No. 5 Bowling green.
Insurance by this line ONE HALF PER CENT.
Superior accommodation for passengers.
Through rates and bills of lading, in connection with Central Railroad of Georgia, to all points.
Through rates and bills of lading in connection with the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad and Plant's Steamers.
GEORGE YONGE, Agent,
Central Railroad of Georgia,
No. 409 Broadway.

FOR ST. THOMAS AND BRAZIL.
THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL MAIL STEAM-SHIP COMPANY.
Regular mail steamers SAILING 23D OF EVERY MONTH, making close connections at RIO DE JANEIRO with the English and French Mail Steam-ships MONTEVIDEO and BUENOS AYRES.
The splendid steam-ship ONTARIO, Capt. GEO. B. STOCUM, will sail from PIER No. 43 NORTH RIVER, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 23, at 3 o'clock P. M., calling at ST. THOMAS, PARA, PERNAMBUCO, BAHIA and RIO DE JANEIRO, going and returning.
First cabin passage to St. Thomas, $100; to Para, $150; to Pernambuco, $200; to Bahia, $210, and to Rio de Janeiro, $235, gold. Steerage half price. EXCURSION TICKETS, good for six months, at three-quarters of above rates. Freights greatly reduced.
Direct communication to St. Croix, via St. Thomas.
Direct communication to St. Croix, via St. Thomas.
Apply to WM. E. GARRISON, No. 5 Bowling green.

ATLAS MAIL LINE.
BI-MONTHLY SERVICE TO HAYTI, VENEZUELA, CURACOA, MARACAIBO, JAMAICA, AND COLOMBIA.
First-class full-powered iron screw steamers, from Pier No. 51 North River.
CLARIBEL.....Nov. 19
PORT AU PRINCE, AUX CAYES, JACMEL, LA GUAYRA, PUERTO CABELLO, and CURACOA and MARACAIBO
ANDES.....Nov. 27
NASSAU, KINGSTON, CARTHAGENA, and SAVANILLA.
ATLAS.....Dec. 7
GONAIVES, PORT AU PRINCE, CURACOA, MARACAIBO, JACMEL, LAGUAYRA, PUERTO CABELLO.
KTNA.....Dec. 15
KINGSTON, SAVANILLA, and SANTA MARTHA.
The "Andes," sailing Nov. 27, will call at Nassau, Bahamas. First-class passenger accommodation.
PIM, FORWOOD & CO., Agents,
No. 56 Wall and No. 59 Pine sts.

NEW-YORK, HAVANA AND MEXICAN MAIL S. S. LINE
Steamers leave Pier No. 3 North River, at 3 P.M., as follows
FOR HAVANA DIRECT.
CITY OF HAVANA.....Thursday, Dec. 24
CUBA.....Tuesday, Jan. 5
CITY OF VERA CRUZ.....Thursday, Jan. 7
FOR VERA CRUZ AND NEW-ORLEANS,
calling at Havana, Progreso, Campeachy, Tuxpan and Tampico.
CUBA.....Tuesday, Jan. 5
CITY OF MERIDA.....Tuesday, Jan. 26
For freight or passage apply to
P. ALEXANDRE & SONS, No. 32 Broadway.
Steamers will leave New-Orleans Jan. 9 and Jan. 30 for Vera Cruz and all the above ports.

NEW-YORK AND HAVANA DIRECT MAIL LINE.
Three first-class steam-ships will sail at 3 P. M., from Pier No. 13 North River, (foot of Cedar st.) for Havana direct, as follows:
COLUMBUS, Capt. R. C. REED, Thursday, Dec. 24.
CRESCENT CITY, Capt. DAVIS, Thursday, Dec. 31.
CALEDONIA, Capt. [illegible], Thursday, Jan. 7.
For freight or passage apply to
WM. P. CLYDE & CO.,
No. 6 Bowling green.
McKELLAR, ADLER & Co., Agents at Havana.

SHIPPING.

EAGLE LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAM-SHIPS
TO PLYMOUTH, CHERBOURG, AND HAMBURG.
The splendid Clyde-built steam-ships will sail from New-York as follows:
LESSING, Capt. TOOMEY, Dec. 26.
GORTHE, Capt. WILSON, Jan. 12.
from Eagle Line Pier, foot of 1st st., Hoboken.
RATES OF PASSAGE:
PLYMOUTH, LONDON, CHERBOURG, and HAMBURG, Cabin, first saloon, $100, gold; second saloon, $60, gold. Steerage to Plymouth and London, Cherbourg, and Hamburg, $24, currency. Prepaid steerage tickets from Hamburg, $24, currency. For freight apply to FURCH, EDYE & CO., No. 27 South William st. For passage apply to KNAUTH, NACHOD & KUHNE, General Agents, No. 113 Broadway.

NOTICE TO TRAVELERS.
Families or gentlemen going to travel on the Continent of Europe, who can afford the expense of a courier, should never leave Paris without one. Their services are invaluable in relieving the traveler from multiplicity of cares and troubles respecting passports, examination and conveyance of luggage, in securing the best accommodations, in protecting the traveler from imposition, and an infinity of annoyances to which they are exposed in various parts of the Continent. Competent and trustworthy couriers and traveling servants may always be obtained by applying to the COURRIER SOCIETY, No. 3 Rue d'Alger, near the Tuileries Garden, Paris.

RAILROADS.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.
THE GREAT TRUNK LINE
AND UNITED STATES MAIL ROUTE.
Trains leave New-York from foot of Desbrosses and Cortlandt sts., as follows:
Express for Harrisburg, Pittsburg, the West and South, with Pullman Palace Cars attached, 9:30 A. M., 5 and 12:30 P. M. Sunday, 5 and 9:30 P. M.
For Williamsport and Lock Haven, (via Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Division, connecting at Philadelphia,) 9:30 A. M. For Williamsport, Lock Haven, Corry, and Erie, 5:30 P. M., connecting at Corry for Titusville, Petroleum Centre, and the Oil Regions.
For Baltimore, Washington, and the South, "Limited Washington Express" of Pullman Palace Cars daily, except Sunday, 9:30 A. M.; arrive Washington 4:10 P. M. Regular at 8:40 A. M.; 3 and 9 P. M. Sunday, 9 P. M.
Express for Philadelphia, 7, 8:40, 9:30 A. M., 12:30, 3, 4, 4:10, 4:50, 5, 7, 8:30, 9 P. M., and 12 night. Sunday, 4:50, 5, 7, 8:30, and 9 P. M. Emigrant and second class, 2 A. M.
For Newark at 6, 6:30, 7, 7:40, 8, 9, 10, 11 A. M., 12 M., 1, 2, 3:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 5:40, 6, 6:10, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8:10, 10, 11:30 P. M., and 12 night. Sunday, 6:30, 7, and 8:10 P. M.
For Elizabeth, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:40, 8, 9, 10 A. M., 12 M., 1, 2, 3:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:30, 4:50, 5:30, 5:40, 6, 6:10, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8:10, 10, 11:30 P. M., and 12 night. Sunday, 6:30, 7, and 8:10 P. M.
For Railway, 6, 6:30, 7, 8, 10 A. M., 12 M., 1, 2, 3:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:30, 4:50, 5:30, 5:40, 6, 6:10, 6:30, 7, 8:10, 10 P. M., and 12 night. Sunday, 5:30 and 7, P. M.
For Woodbridge, Perth Amboy, and South Amboy, 6 and 10 A. M., 2:30, 4:50, and 6 P. M.
For Cranford and Rocky Hill, 8:40 A. M. and 4:10 P. M.
For Princeton, 7, 8:40 A. M., 12:30, 2, 4:10 and 7 P. M.
For Lambertville and Wissinoming, 9:30 A. M. and 2 P. M.
For Philipsburg and Belvidere, 9:30 A. M. and 2 P. M.
For Trenton, Bordentown, Burlington, and Camden, 7 and 9:30 A. M., 12:30, 2, 4, 5, and 7 P. M.
For Freehold, 7 A. M., 2 and 4:10 P. M.
For Farmingdale and Squan, 7 A. M. and 2 P. M.
For Hightstown, Pemberton, and Camden, via Perth Amboy, 2:30 P. M.
For Hightstown and Pemberton, 6 A. M.
Trains arrive as follows: From Pittsburg, 6:55 and 11:20 A. M. and 10:35 P. M., daily; 10:15 A. M. and 7:40 P. M., daily, except Monday. From Washington and Baltimore, 2:20 A. M., 4:35, 5:15, and 10:27 P. M. Sunday 2:20 A. M. and 10:27 P. M. From Philadelphia, 5:10, 6:20, 6:55, 10:15, 11:20, 11:54 A. M., 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:35, 7:40, 8:44, 10:27 P. M. Sunday 5:10, 6:20, 10:15, 11:54 A. M., 7:40 and 10:27 P. M.
Ticket Offices, Nos. 526 and 944 Broadway, No. 1 Astor House, and foot of Desbrosses and Cortlandt sts.; No. 6 Court st., Brooklyn; Nos. 114, 116, and 118 Hudson st., Hoboken. Emigrant Ticket Office, No. 8 Battery place.
FRANK THOMSON, D. M. BOYD, Jr.,
General Manager. General Passenger Agent.

CENTRAL RAILROAD OF NEW-JERSEY.
ALLENTOWN LINE TO THE WEST.
Passenger and Freight Station in New-York, foot of Liberty st. Connects at Somerville with South Branch Railroad; at Hampton Junction with Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad; at Phillipsburg with Lehigh and Susquehanna Division; also with Lehigh Valley Railroad. Direct line to Harrisburg, Pittsburg, and the West; also to Central Pennsylvania and New-York State.
WINTER ARRANGEMENT.
Commencing Dec. 14, 1874.—Leave New-York as follows:
5:15 A. M.—Newe Train for Flemington, Easton, Bethlehem, Bath, Allentown, Manch Chunk, Tamaqua, Tamanend, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, &c.
6 A. M.—Way Train for Plainfield.
7 A. M.—Way Train for Easton, Bethlehem, Manch Chunk, Wilkesbarre, Pittston, Mahanoy City, Mt. Carmel, Hazleton, Tunkhannock, Towanda, Waverly, &c. Connects at Junction with Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.
9 A. M.—Morning Express, daily, (except Sundays,) for Easton, Allentown, Harrisburg, and the West. Connects at Somerville for Flemington; at Easton for Manch Chunk, Tamaqua, Towanda, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, &c., with through cars to Danville, Williamsport, &c.
10:30 A. M.—Way Train for Somerville.
12:45 P. M.—Express for Flemington, Easton, Bath, Allentown, Manch Chunk, Mahanoy City, Hazleton, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, Reading, Columbia, Lancaster, Ephrata, Pottsville, Harrisburg, &c.
3:30 P. M.—Way Train for Easton, Catasauqua, and Belvidere.
3:30 P. M.—Way Train for Plainfield. On Saturdays only to Somerville.
4 P. M.—Way Train for Easton, Allentown, and Manch Chunk. Connects at Junction with Del., Lack. & West. R. R.
4:30 P. M.—Way Train for Somerville and Flemington.
5 P. M.—Way Train for Somerville.
5:15 P. M.—Way Train for Plainfield.
5:30 P. M.—Evening Express, daily, for Easton, Allentown, Manch Chunk, Wilkesbarre, Towanda, Reading, Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Chicago, &c.
6 and 6:45 P. M.—Way Trains for Somerville.
7:30 P. M.—(Emigrant.)—For Easton.
9:15 P. M.—Way Train for Somerville.
12 P. M.—For Plainfield.
For Elizabeth at 5:15, 6, 6:15, 6:40, 7, 7:15, 8, 8:45, 9, 9:30, 10:30, 11:15 A. M.; 12 M., 12:40, 1, 2, 2:30, 3:30, 3:45, 4, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, 7:30, 8:15, 9:15, 10:30, 11:15, 12 P. M.
E. B. RICKER, Superintendent and Engineer.
H. P. BALDWIN, General Passenger Agent.

ERIE RAILWAY.
Summer Arrangement of through trains August, 1874. From Chambers Street Depot. (For 234 st. see note below.)
9:00 A. M., daily, except Sundays, Cincinnati and Chicago Day Express. Drawing-room coaches to Buffalo and sleeping coaches to Cincinnati and Detroit.
10:45 A. M., daily, except Sundays, Express Mail for Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Rochester. Sleeping coach to Buffalo.
7:00 P. M., daily, Pacific Express to the West. Sleeping coaches through to Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago and St. Louis, without change.
7:00 P. M., except Sundays, Emigrant train to the West.
Above trains leave Twenty-third Street Ferry at 8:45 and 10:15 A. M., and 6:45 P. M.
For local trains, see time-tables and cards in hotels depots.
JNO. N. ABBOTT, General Passenger Agent.

NEW-YORK, CENTRAL AND HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.—After Nov. 15, 1874, trains will leave Grand Central Depot:
8:00 A. M., Chicago and Northern Express, with drawing-room cars through to Rochester and St. Albans.
10:30 A. M., special Chicago Express, with drawing-room cars to Rochester and Buffalo.
11:00 A. M., Northern and Western Express.
4:00 P. M., Montreal Express, with sleeping cars from New-York to St. Albans.
6:00 P. M., Express, daily, with sleeping cars for Watertown and Canandaigua.
8:00 P. M., Pacific Express, daily, with sleeping cars for Rochester, Buffalo, and Niagara Falls; also for Chicago, via both L. S. and M. C. Railroads.
11:00 P. M., Express, with sleeping cars for Troy and Albany. Way trains as per Local Time Table.
C. H. KENDRICK, General Passenger Agent.

NEW-YORK, NEW-HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD.
After Nov. 30, 1874, trains leave Grand Central Depot (42d st.,) for New-Canaan Railroad at 8:05 A. M., 1:00 and 4:38 P. M.; Danbury and Norwalk Railroad at 8:05 A. M., 1:00 and 4:38 P. M.; Naugatuck Railroad at 8:05 A. M., and 3 P. M.; Housatonic Railroad at 8:05 A. M. and 3 P. M.; New-Haven and Northampton Railroad at 8:05 A. M. and 3 P. M.; For Newport at 8:05 A. M. and 1 P. M.; Boston and Albany Railroad at 8:05 and 10 A. M., 3 and 8:10 P. M., (7 P. M. on Sunday;) Boston (via Shore Line) at 1 and 9:10 P. M., (9:10 P. M. on Sundays.)
Way trains as per local time tables.
J. T. MOODY, Superintendent New-York Division.
E. M. REED, Vice President New-York.

WICKFORD RAILROAD ROUTE TO NEWPORT, R. I.—Passengers for this line take 8:05 A. M. and 1 P. M. express trains from Grand Central Depot, arriving at 4:20 and 8:20 P. M. Also, on SUNDAYS, 9:10 P. M., Sleeping-car Express, arriving at Newport at 6 A. M.
THEODORE WARREN, Supt.

STEAM-BOATS.

STONINGTON LINE FOR BOSTON.
Steamers NARRAGANSETT, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and STONINGTON, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from Pier No. 33 North River, foot of Jay st., at 5 P. M., arriving in Boston ahead of all other lines. Tickets for sale at all principal railroad offices, and state-rooms secured at the offices of Westcott Express Company, and at No. 319 Broadway.
D. S. BABCOCK, L. W. FILKINS,
President. Gen. Pass. Agent.

FOR NEW-HAVEN, HARTFORD, AND THE NORTH.—Steamers leave Peck slip for New-Haven at 3 and 11 P. M., connecting with road.

FOR BRIDGEPORT AND ALL POINTS ON Housatonic and Naugatuck Railroad.—Fare, $1. Steamers leave Catharine-slip at 11:30 A. M.

HOLIDAY GOODS.

BEAUTIFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
GOLD, SILVER, INVOST-MOUNTED, AND NATURAL
WALKING CANES
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
The LARGEST, BEST, and CHEAPEST assortment in this City, can be found at
A. COX'S SONS, No. 25 Maiden Lane.

MOST SUITABLE HOLIDAY PRESENTS TO FIND AT
FRANKFIELD & CO.'S,
in fine watches, diamonds, coral and gold jewelry, solid silver and fine silver-plated ware, cuckoo and French clocks, all warranted, and retailed at manufacturers' prices, at their well-known stores, Nos. 206 6th av., corner 14th st., and 325 8th av., corner 26th st.

DANCING.

DE GARMO'S, NO. 32 5TH AV., CORNER OF 14th st.—Academy for Dancing.
Classes forming for the season.
PRIVATE LESSONS DAILY.
GENTLEMEN Monday and Thursday evenings at 8.

FINANCIAL.

VERMILYE & CO., BANKERS,

16 and 18 Nassau st., New-York.

DEALERS IN ALL ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.
NEW-YORK CITY
AND BROOKLYN BONDS.
BUY AND SELL ON COMMISSION
RAILWAY STOCKS, BONDS, AND GOLD.
INTEREST ON DEPOSITS.
WARREN R. VERMILYE, DONALD MACKAY
JAS. A. TROWBRIDGE LATHAM A. FISH

CITY AND COUNTY TREASURY,

SAN FRANCISCO, DEC. 1, 1874.

PARK IMPROVEMENT BONDS

OF THE
City and County of San Francisco.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the City and County Treasurer of San Francisco until
THURSDAY, Dec. 31, 1874,
AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

For the purchase of (125) One Hundred and Twenty five Bonds, the same being the balance of two hundred and fifty Bonds authorized to be issued by an act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled "An act concerning certain reservations of the City and County of San Francisco," approved March 11, 1874, and upon the written requisition of E. L. Sullivan, S. F. Butterworth, and William Alvord, Park Commissioners, dated Oct. 1, 1874.
Said bonds will be of the denomination of One Thousand Dollars each, payable in thirty years from the first day of April, 1874, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from the first day of January, 1875; interest payable semi-annually on the first of October and the first of April of each year. Principal and interest payable in United States Gold coin, and in this city and county. The faith and credit of the City and County of San Francisco is pledged for the payment of principal and interest in United States Gold coin.
Bidders will state the rate per cent. at which they will purchase said Bonds, payable in United States Gold coin.
Each bid must be accompanied by ten per cent. of the amount bid for, either by certified check or in Gold coin. No bid will be considered if at less than ninety per cent. of the par value.
The Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all bids, as the public good may require.
Proposals to be indorsed, "Proposals for Park Improvement Bonds." CHAS. HUBBERT, Treasurer.

J. & W. SELIGMAN & CO., BANKERS,

No. 21 Broad st., New-York,
Issue Letters of Credit for Travelers,
PAYABLE IN ANY PART OF EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, AND AMERICA.
DRAW BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND MAKE TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS OF MONEY ON EUROPE AND CALIFORNIA.

NEW CENTRAL COAL COMPANY OF MARYLAND,
Nos. 6 AND 6½ TRINITY BUILDING,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1874.
AT AN ELECTION HELD ON DEC. 8, BY THE stockholders of this company, the following-named gentlemen were duly elected Directors for the ensuing year:
HARRY CONRAD. GEORGE OPDYKE.
SAMUEL F. BARGER. ISAAC C. KENDALL.
HENRY R. KUNHARDT. DAVID T. HOTCHKISS.
PHILO C. CALHOUN. HENRY L. DYER.
FELIG HALL. ALEXANDER SHAW.
CHARLES M. MARSH.
And at a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, HARRY CONRAD was elected President, and J. STERLING, Vice President. CALHOUN, Treasurer. WILLIAM S. JACQUES, Secretary.

INDIANAPOLIS, BLOOMINGTON, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.—Notice is hereby given to the holders of the outstanding minority of the Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Western Second Mortgage Bonds that they are required and requested to deposit their powers of attorney, to foreclose said mortgage, &c., to the undersigned on or before Jan. 2, 1875.
THOMAS DENNY,
OSCAR B. SEAMAN,
JOHN P. ADRIANCE,
Attorneys for majority of Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Western Second Mortgage Bond-holders.
Address THOMAS DENNY & CO., No. 59 Wall st., or ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN, No. 54 Wall st., New-York.

OFFICE OF THE INDIANAPOLIS, BLOOMINGTON, AND WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
No. 57 BROADWAY.
BONDHOLDERS ARE REQUESTED TO CALL at this office and examine the plan proposed by the company for securing their interest, before engaging in an expensive and, probably, protracted and disastrous litigation. A large number of bondholders have already assented, and if all or the greater portion do so, the company can be relieved from embarrassment, and its valuable franchise and property preserved for the security and benefit of its bondholders instead of being wasted in litigation.
Dec. 14, 1874.

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.,
No. 51 WALL ST., CORNER WILLIAM,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 16, 1874.
THE BOOKS OF THIS COMPANY WILL close on the 31st inst., preparatory to the annual statement; persons holding policies on risks which shall have terminated during the year, prior to the 1st of January next, are requested to bring in an account of the premiums thereon, and a statement of all claims for return of premiums, to prevent discrepancies in the accounts.
J. H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE
HAMILTON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
No. 54 WILLIAM ST.,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1874.
THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Company will be held at the Office, No. 11 Wall st., on MONDAY, Jan. 4, 1875. Polls open from 12 M. to 2 P. M.
D. D. LEEDS, Secretary.

OFFICE CENTRAL PETROLEUM COMPANY,
No. 48 PINE ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1874.
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKholders of the Central Petroleum Company for the election of Trustees to serve for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before them, will be held at the office of the company, on MONDAY, Jan. 4, 1875.
Polls open from 12 M. to 1 P. M.
LOUIS J. BELLONI, Jr., Secretary.

MERCHANTS' NATIONAL BANK,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 9, 1874.
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKholders of this bank for the election of eleven Directors to serve the ensuing year, will be held at the banking-house, Tuesday, 12th January, 1875. Polls open from 12 M. to 1 P. M. By order of the Board.
C. V. SANTA, Cashier.

CITY, COUNTY, STATE, TOWN, AND RAILroad Bonds, City Railroad, Gas, Bank, and Insurance Stocks and Scrips. Whether you wish to buy or sell, write or apply to ALBERT H. NICOLAY & CO., Stock Brokers and Auctioneers, No. 45 Pine st., New-York.
N. B.—The above securities our specialty 22 years.

CENTRAL RAILROAD OF IOWA.—THE REport of the JOINT COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION, with plan of reorganization, is now in print, and copies may be had on application in person or by letter to ISAAC N. CATE, No. 13 Custom-house st., Boston, or G. E. TAINTOR, No. 20 Broad st., New-York.

THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 1, 1874.
ELECTION.—AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS will be held at the office of this bank on TUESDAY, Jan. 12 next, from 12 M. to 1 o'clock P. M.
E. WILSON, Cashier.

FOURTH NATIONAL BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 11, 1874.
ELECTION.—THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR NINE Directors and for three Inspectors of next election, will be held at the banking-house, on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1875. Polls open from 12 M. to 1 o'clock P. M.
F. E. LATHROP, Assistant Cashier.

THE HANOVER NATIONAL BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 11, 1874.
THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS for the ensuing year, will be held at the office of this bank, No. 33 Nassau st., on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1875, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M.
GEORGE W. PERKINS, Cashier.

ROBERT WINTHROP & CO.

BANKERS AND BROKERS,
NO. 18 WALL ST.,
Execute orders for STOCKS, BONDS, and GOLD, allow interest on DEPOSITS, and transact a general Banking and Brokerage business.

GAS, CITY RAILROAD,
TRUST COMPANIES, BANK STOCKS,
Insurance Scrip and Stock. If you wish to buy or sell apply to SAMUEL M. SMITH, No. 71 Wall st.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,
NO. 59 WALL ST.,
ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS AVAILABLE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

GUARANTY AND INDEMNITY AND GREAT Western Insurance Stocks bought and sold by W. C. NOYES, Nos. 4 and 6 Pine st.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTGAGE without bonus; second mortgages cashed. HINE, COLE & GRAY, No. 536 6th av.

FIRE INSURANCE STOCKS WANTED BY F. C. BAILEY, No. 65 Wall st.

FIRE INSURANCE STOCKS BOUGHT AND sold by WM. C. GILMAN, No. 46 Pine st.

SAVINGS BANKS.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION
NO. 96 WARREN ST., NEW-YORK.
SIX PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on all sums. Interest commences from 1st of January, April, July, and October.
Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.
WALTER F. CONOKLIN, President.
THOMAS L. BURTIS, Secretary.

HORSES AND CARRIAGES.

THE NEW UP-TOWN OFFICE OF THE TIMES.
THE TIMES has established a new Up-town Branch Office for the sale of papers, the reception of advertisements and subscriptions, and the transaction of any business in connection with the paper. It is located at
No. 1,257 Broadway, between 31st and 32d sts.,
and is open daily, Sundays included, from 4 A. M. to 9 P. M.

CLARK'S PATENT HORSE CLIPPERS, warranted to be the genuine patent article. Trade supplied. HORSE BLANKETS, Wagon, Truck, and Traveling Blankets; also, CARRIAGE ROBES, SLEIGH BELLS, and SADDLERS' GOODS, of all kinds, at HARNESS, HATS & CO.'S, No. 72 Beekman st.

HARNESS, HORSE BLANKETS, &c.—Blankets to wear under the harness, from the finest to the cheapest grades, and made to order. E. BARTLETT, No. 62 Warren st., corner College place.

HOLIDAY'S ENGLISH PLUSH ROBES AT retail, $5 each. Made and stable blankets at low prices. ANDREW LESTER & CO., No. 371 Broadway.

COUPE ROCKAWAY FOR SALE VERY LOW.—Private stable, No. 17 West 44th st.

BOARDING AND LODGING.

THE NEW UP-TOWN OFFICE OF THE TIMES.
THE TIMES has established a new Up-town Branch Office for the sale of papers, the reception of advertisements and subscriptions, and the transaction of any business in connection with the paper. It is located at
No. 1,257 Broadway, between 31st and 32d sts.,
and is open daily, Sundays included, from 4 A. M. to 9 P. M.

WINCHESTER HOUSE—EUROPEAN PLAN—corner of Broadway and 31st st.—This hotel is newly fitted up in elegant style, embracing all the modern improvements, hot and cold water, baths, &c. Pleasant and comfortable single and family rooms. Parties, transient or permanent, desiring comfort will find this house first class, quiet, and genteel. The restaurant is unsurpassed in cooking and service. Pleasant and retired for ladies and families. Prices liberal. Entrance on Broadway; also on 31st st.

A SMALL FAMILY OF ADULTS, OCCUPYing a first-class brown-stone house in a very desirable, convenient location, have a few handsome rooms which they will let to gentlemen with excellent board and best attendance at reasonable rates. Apply at No. 156 West 45th st., near Broadway; Sixth and Seventh avenue lines of cars.

FOUR ROOMS ON PARLOR FLOOR, WITH or without private table, and parlor and bedroom on second floor, adjoining bath-room; also, single rooms; references. Apply at No. 27 West 27th st., near Broadway.

A LARGE NICELY-FURNISHED BACK PARlor, with alcove; also

CHARLIE ROSS.

THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MISSING BOY STILL UNKNOWN.

RETURN OF SUPERINTENDENT WALLING AFTER A LONG AND FRUITLESS SEARCH—THE DETECTIVES STILL AT WORK.

At 2 o'clock yesterday morning Superintendent Walling received a dispatch in reference to the whereabouts of Charlie Ross. The telegram was doubtless of great importance, as the Superintendent immediately telegraphed for Detective Silleck to come to his house without delay. Search was made for Silleck, but he could not be found, and Superintendent Walling at 6 o'clock left the City to make personal search for the missing lad, and sent word to Police Head-quarters that he would telegraph to the Central Office if his efforts were successful. It could not be learned in what direction the Superintendent had gone. He did not make his appearance at his office during the day, and up to a late hour last night no dispatch was received from him. On making inquiries at his residence, late in the evening, the reporters were informed that he was not at home, and had not been there all day. At 10:45 o'clock, however, the following dispatch was received at the Central Office:

FROM EIGHTEENTH PRECINCT, 10:41 P. M.

Back. No news. WALLING.

From this dispatch it appears that the Superintendent has returned from his search after the missing lad without having succeeded in finding him or obtaining any tidings of his whereabouts that he was willing to communicate to the public. Several detectives who started in search of the boy had not reported at Police Head-quarters up to midnight.

INQUEST ON THE BODIES OF MOSHER AND DOUGLASS.

VERDICT OF THE CORONER'S JURY—THE KILLING JUSTIFIABLE—THE DEFENDERS OF THE VAN BRUNT MANSION COMMENDED FOR THEIR BRAVERY.

The inquest on the bodies of Mosher and Douglass was resumed yesterday at the County Court-House, Brooklyn. It was half an hour after the time announced when the proceedings commenced, and even then two of the jurors were absent from their seats.

The first witness examined was Mrs. Magdalene Van Brunt, wife of Mr. J. Holmes Van Brunt. She testified as follows: I remember the morning of Monday. I was looking out of the window on the second story. I noticed the first fire and the direction of the flashing. It was toward the east, or nearly so, from the cellar-door. Two shots were fired first, almost together. Instantly after these two reports I heard other reports. The first shots were not so loud as the others. The first I took to be pistol shots and the last gun shots.

The next witness was Judge Charles H. Van Brunt. He said: I am the owner of premises at Bay Ridge. I left them in my brother's charge and also in my gardener's. I gave no authority to any one to visit my house on the night of the 13th or the morning of the 14th. Strangers who were there at that time had no business to be there.

John J. Doyle sworn, said: I am a police-officer; I recognised the body of the elder man in the Morgue as William Mosher, alias Johnson; and the other as Clarke, alias Douglass; I arrested Mosher about four years ago at Red Bank, N. J., for committing a burglary; I have been looking for them, in this Ross case, for the last five months; have not been them since the time at Red Bank; was informed by somebody that Mosher was connected with the Ross case; he broke jail at Freehold, N. J.; I know Douglass to have been a thief; he was in the Red Bank burglary with Mosher.

Officer James Moran, another New-York detective, testified: I identify the dead men as two whom I arrested on the 10th of November, 1870, for felonious assault upon one Peter Wilmott. I know them to be thieves. I have known Mosher by sight since I was a boy. Never saw the other man before the day I arrested them. Know they were thieves by their general reputation in the ward where they lived, and among the Police.

"MOSHER AND I STOLE CHARLEY ROSS."

Mr. George Bergen, being sworn, said: I live at Bay Ridge; I remember an occurrence taking place around Judge Van Brunt's house on the morning of the 14th inst.; my brother, Theodore, called me about 2 o'clock in the morning, and told me there was something wrong; I lit the lamp and went down stairs; my brother gave me a gun, and I went to Judge Van Brunt's house with a hired man, who carried a pistol; when I got over the gate I saw a man lying on the grass; I looked at him, saw he was dead, and went to Douglass, who was crying out. Douglass was about four feet from the house at the south. Douglass asked me to give him some water to swallow. It was given to him. He took a swallow. He asked me to hold his arm, and I took him by the hand. I asked him what his name was, and he gave us some Irish name, but immediately checked himself and said, "Men, I won't lie to you; my name is Joseph Douglas. He said his companion's name was William Mosher, and spelled it out for us, M-o-s-h-e-r. He said Mosher lived in the City, but he himself had no home; he said, "Men, I have $40 in my pocket; I made it honestly, and I wish to be buried decently with it." He said then: "Mosher and I stole Charlie Ross." I asked him where Charlie Ross was. He said: "I do not know—Mosher had him." I told him Mosher was dead. He said: "God help us! Mosher has a wife and six children." Then some of the party asked him how they came there. He said they came in a sloop, from New-York; I asked him where the boat was; he said it was lying in the cove toward Bay Ridge; he then said they came ashore in a small boat; he said "Superintendent Walling would give anything to catch us, and now he can have us; he appeared to be in great agony, and when we offered to move him into the house, he said, "Men, for God's sake, don't move me—let me die where I am." He would not let us put a blanket under him; we all remained with him until he died; he died about an hour and a half after I got there; he was sensible only about a quarter of an hour before he died; what he said about Walling as just what I stated; he did not say that Walling knew where the Ross child was.

Theodore V. Bergen corroborated the evidence of his brother.

Constable John B. Holland, of New Utrecht, testified that when he arrived on the scene he found Mosher dead and Douglass insensible.

The Coroner then charged the jury, who retired at 3:20 P. M., and returned at 4:06 with the following verdict:

THE VERDICT.

We find that the man known as William Mosher and the man known as Joseph Douglass, came to their death from the effects of gun and pistol-shot wounds, on the morning of the 14th day of December, 1874, on the premises of Judge Charles H. Van Brunt, at Bay Ridge, between the hours of 12 and 6 o'clock A. M.; that said wounds were inflicted by the firearms fired by the hands of J. Holmes Van Brunt, William Scott, Albert Van Brunt, and Herman Frank, in self-defense. And we, the jury, further find that the killing of the deceased in the manner set forth was perfectly justifiable, and we commend the act of their defending their lives and property in such a courageous manner, under such trying circumstances.

The Coroner expressed his entire concurrence in the finding of such a verdict, and said he felt all through that no other could be expected from such a jury.

The Secretary of the meeting, formed by the jury for the purpose, then read a motion of thanks to the Coroner for the manner in which he conducted the inquest. The compliment was acknowledged by the Coroner, and the proceedings terminated.

The Coroner still retains possession of the bodies and effects of the deceased. To those claiming them as relations he stated that they should go through the same legal course as is pursued in the case of those dying suddenly and intestate.

POLICE TRIALS.

Patrolman Charles A. F. Heyn, of the Thirty-first Precinct, was arraigned before Commissioner Voorhis, yesterday, charged with unwarrantably arresting Henry Ziegler, a fire insurance agent, of No. 2,266 Third avenue. The case was deferred in order to procure additional testimony. Patrolman William D. Darke was charged, before the same Commissioner, with refusing to arrest a disorderly character, and was fined five days' pay. The following cases were also disposed of: Patrolman Oliver A. Pratt, of the Twenty-fifth Precinct, charged with cruelty to a horse, and with failure to arrest the driver of the same; case dismissed. Patrolman William Stein, Twenty-ninth Precinct, charged with failing to pay a bill contracted by him, when ordered to do so by the Chief Clerk of the Department; decision reserved. Patrolman J. Devlin, Tenth Precinct, arraigned for assaulting, and afterward arresting, without cause, a boy sixteen years of age; fined five days' pay.

THE GERMAN GENERAL CONSULATE.

Mr. A. M. Schumacher, successor to Dr. Roesing, has taken charge of the German General Consulate during the past week. Mr. Schumacher was formerly German Consul General at Santa Fé de Bogata, and at the same time acted as Chargé d'Affaires of the German Government. Mr. Schumacher is a native of Bremen, and has been in the service of the Government since 1872. His predecessor, Dr. Roesing, at present fills a position in the Foreign Office of the German Empire.

WESTON'S WALK AT NEWARK.

Weston, the pedestrian, is still walking at the Newark Rink. From midnight till 5 o'clock yesterday morning he rested. At 5:04 he resumed his travel, determined to make eighty miles before midnight last night. He breakfasted at 9 o'clock, and then lunged steadily at work till 1:15 P. M., when he completed his 300th mile. He then rested till 2 o'clock, when he started again. He is holding out remarkably well, and considering the exertions he has already made, he is in fine spirits. He yesterday received a letter of encouragement and admiration from Prof. R. Ogden Doremus.

THE BROOKLYN SCANDAL.

POSTPONEMENT OF ARGUMENT ON THE APPEAL FROM JUDGE M'CUE'S DECISION ON THE BEECHER-TILTON SUIT—RUMORS CONTRADICTED.

Since the postponement of the trial in the Tilton-Beecher suit various rumors have been circulated from time to time. Every day some new feature in the case is presented, and when every other resource fails new issues are manufactured and fresh stories invented. Among the latest rumors in connection with the suit has been one to the effect that the case is not likely to be brought to trial at all. Another story has been set afloat which represents that Miss Proctor will sue Rev. Henry Ward Beecher for libel, and that Gen. Butler has taken up the suit for her. In so extraordinary a case as that of the Beecher-Tilton scandal and its outgrowths, of course it is impossible to say what may or may not take place. From the beginning it has been peculiarly complicated, and has taken a course singularly at variance with the ordinary rules of human action, and there would be nothing extraordinary in supposing that it may continue in the same course, and end by shrouding itself in mystery and doubt. So far as presents indications, however, can be relied upon there does not seem to be any likelihood of the suit being abandoned by Mr. Tilton. Such a proceeding would not save Mr. Beecher, nor would it be in keeping with Mr. Tilton's action in the matter up to the present, and, so far as his counsel are concerned, they have not as yet shown any disposition to withdraw the case. As to the other rumor that Miss Proctor would sue Mr. Beecher, those who are supposed to know her feelings on the subject do not seem to think that there is any probability that she will do any such thing.

The appeal from the decision of Judge McCue in granting an order for the bill of particulars which Mr. Tilton's counsel decided upon, and which was to be argued to-morrow, has been postponed until Monday, by the mutual agreement of counsel on both sides. Ex-District Attorney Morris, of counsel for Tilton, says that all the plaintiff asks for is that they should be allowed to introduce all the testimony in the case to which they are entitled under the general laws of evidence. Of course they will refuse to be pinned down, he says, to any one particular date or short interval, as no matter what testimony they may introduce it would be of no avail unless it pointed directly to an act of adultery on the date or within the time agreed to. No matter how strong the general evidence they might introduce, the jury would be forced to find a verdict of not guilty, even though they should be persuaded that the crime was committed at some time. Mr. Beecher's lawyers demand imperatively their client should at least know something beforehand of what he has to rebut, and that he should not be called upon at a moment's notice to give an account of all his movements for over four years in his own defense. If a fair limit of time were signified he would, before the trial began, be able to search back and explain satisfactorily his actions during that interval.

It is thought by some that Judge Neilson and Judge Reynolds will reverse the decision of Judge McCue by confirming their original opinion that no bill of particulars should be ordered. Others think it is not unlikely that they will confirm the decision, with some slight modification in the form of the order. The appeal will be argued on Monday by Mr. Beach on the part of Mr. Tilton, and Mr. Evarts for Mr. Beecher.

WHEELER & WILSON'S.

The old Maison Dorée, formerly so well-known to all lovers of good eating and drinking, will hardly be recognised in its new garb. Impelled by the up-town movement of business, the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing-machine Company has taken the old building, and, after renovating, enlarging, and improving it both inside and outside, until it has become really an architectural ornament, has opened it to the public as their principal head-quarters. The new premises consist of a building six stories high on Fourteenth street, Union square, and 45 feet in width, and extending back 200 feet to Thirteenth street. The new front which has been put on the building is of pale clay-tinted Indiana stone, with trimmings of blue Rochester stone, the combination producing a very pleasant effect. The lower story is supported by clusters of composite columns, and the façade is ornamented with stone rosettes, and surmounted by an arched frieze and balustrade. The building is entered by two doors, one on each side, and between them is a large show window, framed in a rich casement of black walnut. The lower story is not broken by partitions, and upon the room the eye is bewildered by ranging over 200 feet of offices, sales-rooms and instruction rooms, all furnished and decorated in the richest and most tasteful manner. The broad ceiling 46 feet wide and 20 feet high, is supported by a row of graceful columns, which are very ingeniously made to warm the room by putting at the base of each alternate one a cluster of gilded steam tubes. At the left, on entering, is an elegant show-case of black walnut and ebony. It is lined with maple, and filled with opera-cloaks, morning robes, heavy overcoats, baby wardrobes, and ladies' dresses, all made with a bewildering display of tucks, folds, binding, braiding, embroidering, &c., and intended as a sample of the range of work which the Wheeler & Wilson machine can accomplish. Further along on the same side is a superb thread-case and counter with sewing-machine supplies of all kinds; and thence is a continuation of desks. At the right on entering is a black-walnut staircase richly carved and decorated with foliage and fruits. Further along on this side are the private rooms of the officers of the company. In the day time the room is abundantly and pleasantly lighted from the front—which is an almost unbroken sheet of plate-glass—the rear, and the two spacious skylights over the middle of the rooms. In the evening the light is furnished by sixteen massive chandeliers, of twenty-four burners each. A low screen of mirrors and figured glass, framed in black walnut, separates the rear of the floor from the sales-room, for an instruction room. It is well lighted and handsomely adorned as befits a subdivision of the main floor. A richly mirrored black walnut vestibule incloses the entrance on Thirteenth street, and a casing incloses a commodious steam elevator. Near by is an elegant wardrobe, and a marble washstand, with silver faucets, and other appropriate appurtenances. Stairways also lead to the upper stories and basement. The entire floor is bordered and paneled with parquet work of tastefully variegated woods, the intervening spaces being covered with rich Brussels carpet. Scattered over it in rows and groups are the various styles of sewing machines made by this company. Yesterday was exhibited to the public for the first time the No. 7 machine which is merely a modification of the No. 6 machine, which took the highest prize it is in the power of the American Institute to award. The upper stories on Fourteenth street are to be utilised for the general business. The three stories on Thirteenth street are used for repairing and adjusting machines and for the storage of parts, supplies, &c. The immense basement is fitted for packing and shipping machines. Under the Thirteenth street sidewalk is the steam-boiler for heating and hoisting. Taken as a whole, the building is an addition to the mercantile palaces which are perhaps more numerous in New-York than in any other city, and it is well worthy a visit, even if it is only one of curiosity rather than of business.

ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS.

Chief Engineer Edwin Fithian, United States Navy, is at the Union Square Hotel.

Stillman Witt, of Cleveland, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Congressman elect Charles Hughes, of Sandy Hill, N. Y., is at the St. Denis Hotel.

Col. Thomas G. Baylor and Capt. Robert Catlin, United States Army, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Capt. John H. Upshur, United States Navy, and Lieut. Col. S. B. Holabird, United States Army, are at the Everett House.

Gen. A. A. Humphreys, United States Army, and Congressman elect John L. Vance, of Ohio, are at the Hoffman House.

Congressman Robert S. Hale, of Elizabethtown, N. Y.; Assemblyman Cyrille S. Lincoln, of Naples, N. Y., and Col. W. L. Scott, of Erie, Penn., are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

THE FASHIONABLE SMUGGLER.

Mlle. Leoni Juvin, who was arrested on the charge of smuggling fifty silk dresses into this port from France, was brought before Commissioner Shields yesterday for examination, but, upon application of Mr. Bell, her counsel, the hearing was adjourned to Saturday at noon.

IRONWORKS STOPPED.

A Fishkill correspondent of the Poughkeepsie *Eagle* writes that the Vulcan Manufactoring Company's Iron Foundry in that village has suspended operations, and the establishment is closed, all work therein having ceased. He writes: "Rumors respecting the immediate cause of the suspension are numerous, but the interested parties are rather reticent on the subject, making it impossible for an outsider to obtain any reliable information regarding the matter. After careful inquiry I have ascertained that the employés have not received any salary for upward of two months, and it was partly on this account that they refused to continue their labors. All reports appear to confirm the belief that the concern has failed. Some claim that the financial condition of the concern is sound, and that the suspension is only temporary."

CITY AND SUBURBAN NEWS.

NEW-YORK.

The grand ball in aid of the New-York Infant Asylum will be given on Jan. 14.

The steamers Cimbria and City of New-York sailed from this port yesterday with 48,366 letters and 74 bags of papers.

Mayor Vance says that he will not reply to the communication of Mr. Simon Sterne respecting the Fourth avenue improvement.

"The Morality of the Theatre" is the subject of a lecture to be delivered this evening by Mr. John Elderkin, before the Liberal Club.

Jame C. Rice Post No. 29, G. A. R., will hold a "camp fire" on Monday, Dec. 21, at their head-quarters, No. 58 West Fourteenth street.

The iron-clad Roanoke, which has been lying at anchor off the Battery for some time past, yesterday proceeded to her Winter quarters at the navy-yard.

The third of Rev. John Weiss' lectures on the women of Shakespeare will be delivered this evening at the Union League Theatre. The subject will be "Helena and Ophelia."

Maurice Vignaux and François Ubassy will play an exhibition game of 300 points, French carroms, this evening at the Woodlawn Billiard Parlors, No. 221 Sixth avenue.

Assistant Alderman Henry A. Linden died yesterday, of consumption. The Board of Assistant Aldermen will hold a special meeting to-day at 2 P. M., to take appropriate action.

A bazaar for the benefit of St. Francis Hospital, Fifth street, between Avenues B and C, will be held at the hospital this evening, continuing until the evening of Sunday, the 20th inst.

The female department of Grammar School No. 4, Rivington street, will hold a reunion on Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 1:30 P. M. The occasion is the retirement of Miss Catherine White, the Principal.

A lecture reviewing the labor of the recent exploring and surveying expedition to the Territories, will be delivered by Lieut. Wheeler, before the United States Geographical Society on Wednesday, the 23d inst.

The managers of the Fair of the Church of the Strangers announce that all goods remaining unsold will be disposed of by auction this evening at Mme. Demarest's, No. 838 Broadway. The sale commences at 7:30.

Mr. W. C. Kingsley and Gen. Slocum called upon Mayor Vance yesterday in relation to an appropriation of $1,000,000 for the Brooklyn Bridge. They stated that the matter would come up in the Board of Aldermen.

Rev. Frank L. Norton, of Brookline, Mass., late Assistant Rector of St. Thomas' Church, New-York, will preach at the Church of the Incarnation, Thirty-fifth street and Madison avenue, Sunday morning, Dec. 20.

Judge Donohue, in Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, made an order confirming the report of the Commissioners for the opening of King's Bridge Road between One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street and the Harlem River.

The lady members of St. Thomas' Chapel, East Sixtieth street, between Second and Third avenues, are holding a fancy bazaar and holiday festival in the Sunday-school room, with a view of diminishing the debt on the chapel.

A fair for the benefit of the French Orphan Asylum was opened at the institute of Mlle. Tardiol, No. 25 West Forty-sixth street, yesterday, attracted a large attendance of visitors. The fair will be continued to-day and to-morrow.

The December reception of the School-teachers' Association of this City will be held at Steinway Hall on Saturday evening, Dec. 19, at 8 o'clock. Mayor Vance will preside, and a number of distinguished vocalists will sing select songs and ballads.

The suit of Walter Paine to recover damages for injuries sustained on the Forty-second and Grand Street Railway, was yesterday, dismissed by Judge Speir, of the Superior Court, on the ground that plaintiff had been guilty of contributive negligence.

The annual Christmas reception of Grammar School No. 51 was held at the school, No. 323 West Forty-fourth street, last evening. The exercises consisted of music, recitations, &c., and concluded with an address by W. H. Wilson, President of the Board of Education.

A fair will be opened to-morrow evening by the ladies of the Madison Avenue Reformed Church at No. 928 Broadway, and will be continued until Christmas Eve. The proceeds are intended to defray the expense incurred in the erection of the new lecture-room connected with the church.

The Executive Committee of the Bowery branch of the Young Men's Christian Association have reduced the price of meal tickets from $10 to $5 per hundred. These tickets are sold by the association to give charitable persons the opportunity of relieving necessitous persons without giving them money.

The following officers have been elected by Kane Lodge, No. 454, F. and A. M., to serve during the ensuing year: W. Master, Irah Chase; Senior Warden, William H. Woodhull; Junior Warden, Alfred T. Acker; Treasurer, Seymour A. Bunce; Secretary, Floyd Clarkson; Trustees, Gerardus B. Dorbarty, Charles Roome, Robert M. Thomas.

At the annual meeting of the Columbia Yacht Club, held at their rooms on Tuesday evening, Dec. 15, the following officers were elected for the year 1875: R. McWhinney, Commodore; E. H. Osborn, Vice Commodore; James A. Smith, Secretary; Robert Wilson, Treasurer; William Coppersmith, Measurer; J. P. Smith, Steward.

The third lecture in the course of Cooper Union Saturday Night Lectures will be delivered to-morrow evening by Mr. J. A. Johnson, editor of the Santa Barbara *Press*. His subject will be "Southern California—the Italy of America." During the delivery of the many prominent localities will be illustrated by means of the stereopticon.

The annual election for officers of Continental Lodge No. 267, F. and A. M., held on Wednesday evening, resulted in the choice of the following: E. M., Master; Master F. B. Whitfield, S. W.; J. W. Coburn, J. W.; J. R. Hatheway, Treasurer; W. H. Taylor, Secretary; H. G. Carter, D. S. Riddle, T. F. W. Taylor, Trustees; J. E. Flagler, S. D.; W. D. S. Hever, J. D.; H. G. Pearson, G. D. Carroll, M. C.; E. J. Clyde, Marshall; A. Johnson, Organist; A. G. Dawes, Tiler.

At the annual communication of Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 610, F. and A. M., on Wednesday evening, the following were elected and installed officers for the ensuing Masonic year: Charles F. Emerson, Master; John C. C. Tallman, S. W.; William Neely, J. W.; William G. Grant, Jr., Treasurer; William E. Crofts, Secretary; W. Charles A. Harned, S. D.; August J. Rollé, J. D.; Joel Parker and Charles F. Boeringer, Masters of Ceremonies; George McNeil, Marshal; John Costello, Chaplain; George P. Miles and Allan Williams, Stewards; A. B. Chase, Organist; C. Torrey, Tiler; W. Alfred A. Valentine, R. W. Mortimer C. Addoms, and W. Charles A. Harned, Trustees.

At the annual meeting of Puritan Lodge, No. 339, F. and A. M., held on Wednesday evening, the following officers were elected: Master, Henry Metzger; Senior Warden, David H. Mandeville; Junior Warden, Joseph A. Besant; Treasurer, R. A. Olmsted; Secretary, Oliver Green; Junior Deacon, A. A. Bogert; Masters of Ceremonies, J. E. Hoffman and C. H. H. Sayre; Stewards, Stephen J. Tedford and W. J. Thirlwell; Chaplains, Rev. J. W. Kramer and Rev. J. C. Kenney; Marshal, William H. Johnson; Trustees, Isaac H. Brown, John H. Zindel, and William W. Lyons; Standing Committee, R. Archbold, R. Scott, and A. S. Cochrane; Organist, C. A. Kimball; Tiler, J. H. Murray.

Messrs. James E. Thompson, Henry L. Butler, A. Dalrymple, and James Gillies, the committee appointed by the Grand National Curling Club on an international curling match between Canada and the United States, have received enough answers to their circulars from the various clubs in this country to warrant them in recommending the postponement of the match to a more favorable season, as, on account of the depressed condition of business, a sufficient number of players cannot be obtained to successfully represent the Grand National Curling Club. A magnificent medal, to be played for this season, has been presented by Mr. Kirkpatrick, and the conditions of the competition for it and other curling matters will be decided at the next meeting.

BROOKLYN.

To-day, at noon, the bids for clearing the streets of Brooklyn during 1875, will be opened at the Board of City Works.

Yesterday the United States District Court adjourned for the term. Judge Benedict will reopen court on the second Monday in January.

On Monday next the Charity Commissioners will begin the distribution of supplies to the poor of the county from each of the five store houses recently established.

A children's fair in aid of a colored school in the South will commence this afternoon at the Friends' Meeting-house, corner of Washington and Lafayette avenues.

Lawrence Woods, aged fifty-three, of No. 188 Varet street, fell down stairs last evening at the above number, and burst a blood vessel in the brain. He died some hours after the fall.

The Special Committee of the Board of Aldermen, appointed to secure from the Federal Government lands in the Wallabout for a public market, conferred with the Mayor, in the latter's office, yesterday morning, in reference to the matter. After some discussion, it was deemed advisable to defer further action until after the holidays.

An appeal from the order of Judge Pratt, denying a change of venue to the men indicted in Suffolk County for the murder of Charles G. Kelsey, was argued yesterday before the General Term of the Supreme Court. Decision reserved.

NEW-JERSEY.

William Jacques, of Woodbridge, who had served five years of a ten-year term of sentence for burglary, was pardoned from the State Prison a few days ago. Monday he was arrested in Woodbridge for having assaulted a fellow-townsman and committed to jail.

James Chapman, a lawyer of Jersey City, who has been indicted for having assaulted his servant girl, yesterday retracted his former plea and pleaded guilty. The assault sprang out of a pending suit for divorce, brought against Chapman by his wife. He will be sentenced to-day.

A man who gave his name as William Nelson drove a horse and carriage to Compton's stables, in Market street, Newark, yesterday morning, and asked accommodations for them. Suspecting that he had stolen the turn-out, Mr. Compton sent for an officer. He was arrested, and confessed that he had stolen the horse and carriage from a farmer in New-Brunswick.

A large number of property-owners met with the Board of Trade in Newark Wednesday night, to consider the improvement of Broad and Market streets, the main thoroughfares of the city. A resolution was passed asking the Common Council to pave the two streets named with first-class stone pavement, and favoring the assessment of the whole city to pay for the improvements.

George Leonard, a fireman in the employ of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Company, has been arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the robbery of the safe from an express car at Delaware Station several weeks ago. He was on the train in which the robbery occurred, and is said to have been supporting, in a style beyond his means, a number of women, to more than one of whom he is said to be married. Too lavish a display of money by one of these women led to his arrest. Clark, the express messenger, is also suspected.

William Coleman, freight agent of the eastern division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, is said to be a defaulter to the extent of $1,000. He has had full charge of the freight. A few days ago he became dangerously sick, and during his absence his duties were performed by one of his subordinates. This gentleman, while going through the books, discovered the defalcation. Coleman's bondsmen have expressed their readiness to make the loss good to the company, and it is understood that Coleman will not be prosecuted. Coleman has been very highly esteemed and is thought to have lost the money through unwise speculation.

GYMNASTICS AT WOOD'S ACADEMY.

The pupils of Prof. J. Wood's Gymnastic Academy, No. 8 West Twenty-eighth street, gave their nineteenth annual exhibition last evening. The hall was well filled with the friends of the performers, many of whom were ladies, and a fine orchestra superseded the solitary pianist who provided music at the previous exhibition. The entertainment commenced with aerial flights, in which all the performers were introduced. This was followed by exercises with dumb-bells, during which Mr. R. A. Pennell elevated a weight of 181 pounds vertically in the air. The art of boxing was illustrated by Dr. Meigs and Prof. O'Neill, the latter announcing the different movements as they were executed. Prof. Senast and Mr. Fred. Engelhardt engaged in a fencing match, and Mr. C. D. Newton performed a series of graceful acts upon the horizontal bar. These exercises were interspersed with a miscellaneous programme of athletic sports by the various members of the company.

[Advertisement.]

Gentlemen's HATS and Ladies' Fancy FURS for holiday gifts are obtainable at Knox's, No. 212 Broadway, and in the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

PRINTING CLOTH MARKET.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 17.—Printing Cloths continue quiet, with a weak market. Best 64x64, Standard and Extra, held at 5½c. @5¾c. for thirty days, with transactions chiefly at the lower figure.

PASSENGERS SAILED.

In steam-ship Gen. Barnes, for Savannah.—Dr. J. B. H. Gitting and wife, Miss J. C. Bechan, Miss A. F. Redwood, R. H. Miller and wife, W. Helsey, J. B. Livingston, James B. Erwin, William C. Stinner, Miss Laura Wurts, Miss Mary Ball, Henry Ball and wife, Clark Marple, C. D. Breck and wife, Dr. S. F. Reed, Miss Bessie Chapiain, Edward Fiselps, John Garad, W. L. Bishop, Wilbur L. Bishop, Charles Leonard, Charles Palmer, Rev. E. Cofferty, J. S. Maupas, Matthews Bolton, John C. Rucell, Thomas Ford, Morris Horan, Rudolph Giesselman, James A. O'Brien, Maggie A. Lee.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

In steam-ship Russia, from Liverpool.—Col. C. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Armstrong, H. Atwell, L. Bentley, Hon. the Master of Blantyre, G. G. Bliss, T. Houston Boswall, Robert Bruce, James Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Busk, child, infant, and maid, Mr. Camman, J. Chadwick, Mrs. Chamberlain and child, George A. Chipman, Mrs. Chipman, E. Leonard Corning, Edward Clingard, Charles Dix, Manuel Duran, Edward Ferris, Mr. Fisher, A. Gans, Mr. Gargnile, Harold Hadden, S. C. Havemeyer, Thos. Hiller, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hoffnung, Col. and Mrs. C. L. King, three children, governess, and nurse, J. P. Knapp, George Knight, John L. Lewis, wife child, infant, and maid; D. Macfarland, Edward Marcus, F. K. Massey, J. P. McP. Mehaffay, S. Meyerheim, F. Meakin, E. J. Mynot, Mr. Peters, J. C. Richmond, T. Roosevelt, R. Roosevelt, John Sloane, O. F. Stillman, Miss Taylor, William Thode, Mrs. Vail, T. D. Wanser, Frank Wanser, R. Waterhouse, Miss Wilcox, Burns Wilson, Pullock Wilson, H. C. Wodehouse, Mrs. Woolworth, Miss Bennett.

In steam-ship Erin, from Liverpool.—Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay, Miss Maggie Bell, Miss Sarah Boynton, Dr. F. E. Porter, Dr. L. B. Bangs, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sullivan, R. H. Burlech, James Chubb, Miss E. Chubb, M. Welsh, T. W. Phillips, G. P. Rockwell, J. N. Dryburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Travis, M. J. Paton, Mr. and Mrs. James Chisholm and child, Miss Louisa Marks, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Eggiston, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Bagley, Miss Bagley, Mr. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

In steam-ship Frisia, from Hamburg.—August Lienau, Charles Reed, wife and daughter; P. Prinz and wife, J. G. Keilber and wife, John Krasnicin and wife, William Strenss, M. Chemnits, Charles Fach, Marie Reichardt, Therese Hildebrandt, Mathilde Aldorf, John Schrader, Ludwig Dallmann, Carl Muller, Jacob Federhoss, Marie Bieyak, W. Bellaing and family, J. Rosenthal, E. Morris, S. C. Galisher and family, Mr. Friend and family, Charles Schedel, Mrs. Veisin.

In steam-ship City of Havana, from Havana.—Jose Ferrer De Couto, Mrs. Buckley and infant, Miss Juana Banos, Jose Huertemendia, Manuel Dias, Walter Kane, H. Russell, Jesse W. Sanger, Antonio Euglin, A. R. B. Moses.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.

Sun rises.....7:10 | Sun sets.....4:34 | Moon sets...1:50

HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.

Sandy Hook...9:37 | Gov. Island...3:26 | Hell Gate....4:48

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK.....THURSDAY, Dec. 17.

CLEARED.

Steamships Cimbria, (Ger.,) Brandt, Hamburg, Kunhardt & Co.; City of New York, Deaken, Havana, F. Alexandre & Sons; Canima, (Br.,) Liddicoat, Hamilton, Bermuda, A. E. Outerbridge; North Point, Smith, Philadelphia, Lorillard Steam-ship Co.; Beverly Pierce, Philadelphia, J. Hand; Octorara, Reynolds, Baltimore, W. Dalzell; Eagle, (Br.,) Jackman, Sydney, C. B., Bowring & Archibald; General Barnes, Cheeman, Savannah, W. R. Garrison; Georgia, Crowell, Charleston, S. C., J. W. Quinzard & Co.; Richmond, Reed, Norfolk, City Point and Richmond, Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.; A. C. Stimers, Warren, Philadelphia, J. Hand; Neptune, Berry, Boston, H. F. Dimock; Eleanore, Johnson, Portland, J. F. Ames.

Ships Freedom, Norton, Glasgow, Thomas Dunham's Nephew & Co.; William Tapscott, Morgan, Liverpool, Tapscott Bros. & Co.; Dulep Singh, (Br.,) Williams, Liverpool, E. J. Cerris; Daphne, (Br.,) Lane, London, Peabody, Willis & Co.

Barks Aeolus, (Br.,) Berding, Antwerp, Punch, Edye & Co.; Ellen Dyer, Clapp, Havana, H. D. and J. U. Brookman; Gazelle, Dunize, Port Spain, H. Trowbridge's Sons; Atlantic, Dickerson, Barbados, H. Trowbridge's Sons; Titania, (Br.,) Harvey, St. Johns, N. F., Bowring & Archibald.

Brigs Tenerife, Tracey, Genoa, Miller & Houghton; Starlight, Stover, Port Spain, Trin. I. W. & P. Armstrong; Mary Celeste, Tuthill, Richmond, Cartwright & Harrison.

Schrs. Hannah Coomer, King, Turk's Island and market, B. J. Wenberg; Marcia Reynolds, Westerdyke, Laguayra, &c., Dallett, Bliss & Co.; Lookout, Nichols, Havana, E. Sanches y Dols; Annie L. Palmer, Lewis, Jacmel, I. R. Staples.

ARRIVED.

Steam-ship Russia, (Br.,) Cook, Liverpool Dec. 5, and Queenstown 6th, with mdse. and 74 cabin passengers to Charles G. Francklyn. Dec. 16, lat. 40 47, lon. 66 58, passed steam-ship City of New-York, from Liverpool, for New-York.

Steam-ship City of Havana, Phillips, Havana Dec. 12, with mdse. and passengers to F. Alexandre & Sons.

Steam-ship North Point, Smith, Philadelphia, with mdse. and passengers to Lorillard Steam-ship Co.

Steam-ship Frisia, (Ger.,) Meier, Hamburg Dec. 2, and Havre 5th, with mdse. and 37 cabin and 153 steerage passengers to Kunhardt & Co.

Steam-ship Erin, (Br.,) Andrews, Liverpool Dec. 2, and Queenstown 3d, with mdse. and passengers to F. W. J. Hurst.

Steam-ship Old Dominion, Walker, Richmond, City Point, and Norfolk, with mdse. and passengers to Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.

Bark Norah, (of Boston,) Hall, Tarragona Oct. 12, and Malaga 30 da., with fruit to Brown Bros. & Co.—vessel to Miller & Houghton. Passed Gibraltar Nov. 12; has been 11 da. N. of; lat. 32, with strong N. E. and N. W. gales.

Bark Wilburn, (of Pictou,) McDougall, Leghorn 64 da., with mdse. to Fabbricotti Bros.—vessel to Duncan McGill. Passed Gibraltar Oct. 25; had strong N. W. gales from lon. 68; carried away maintopmast and lost and split sails.

Bark Guinare, (of Prince Edward Island,) McDonald, Leghorn 49 da., with marble, rags, &c., to Fabbricotti Bros.—vessel to master. Passed Gibraltar Nov. 14; had variable weather.

Bark Evening Star, (of Bermuda,) Asburn, Singapore Aug. 20, with mdse. to Frederick Spring & Co. Passed Cape of Good Hope Oct. 4, St. Helena 21st, and crossed the equator Nov. 9 in lon. 32 30; had fine weather to Hatteras, and been 17 da. from thence, with N. W. gales.

Bark Chief, (of Boston,) Harding, Smyrna 55 da., with mdse. to Schnitzer & Hamlin—vessel to Vernon H. Brown. Passed Gibraltar Nov. 14; took the middle passage, and had fine weather to lat. 35, lon. 50; since strong N. and N. W. gales.

Bark Marlo, (Ital.,) Bonnano, London 49 da., with chalk to order—vessel to Slocovich & Co.

Bark Olivia Davis, Manlie, Singapore Aug. 1, with mdse. to Frederick Spring & Co. Passed Agiler Sept. 1, Cape of Good Hope Oct. 7, St. Helena 24th, and crossed the equator Nov. 16, in lon. 39; had very light S. E. trades from the Cape to the equator, fine weather to Hatteras, and from thence strong N. and N. W. winds.

Bark Monitor, Eaton, Leghorn Oct. 19, with mdse. to Lunt Brothers. Is anchored on the Bar.

Brig Eulelia, (of Prince Edward's Island,) Walsh, Grand Turk, T. I., 16 da., with salt to order—vessel to D. R. De Wolf & Co. Has been 8 da. N. of Hatteras, with N. E. and N. W. gales.

Brig Goodwin, Craig, Malaga 43 da., with fruit to Devlin & Rose—vessel to James Henry. Passed Gibraltar Nov. 2; had strong westerly gales from lon. 65, and been 9 da. north of Hatteras.

Brig Sloga, (Aus.,) Carulch, Guantanamo 43 da., with sugar to J. M. Caballos—vessel to Slocovich & Co. Has had strong N. and N. W. winds.

Brig Edith, Johnson, Miragoane 18 da., with logwood and coffee to H. Becker & Co.—vessel to Simpson, Clapp & Co. Has been 6 da. north of Hatteras